Appendix C

Biological Resources

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July 25, 2016

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

7952 Hollister Avenue (APN: 079-210-048)
Goleta, California

Prepared for:
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BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report was prepared by Watershed Environmental, Inc. under contract to the City of Goleta to describe the existing biological resources located at 7952 Hollister Avenue (APN: 079-210-048). Biological surveys were performed on June 24, 2016 and are described in this report. Potential impacts to biological resources resulting from future development of the site are evaluated per the adopted City of Goleta *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (SBCO 1995) and the 2016 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14 2009). The project site is located within the City of Goleta, near the western terminus of Hollister Avenue in the Coastal Zone (Figure 1). The parcel is 1.22 acres in size and is currently undeveloped (no structures), but historically had a gas station in the western portion of the property that was removed in 1993 (Attachment 1). After removal of the gas station, remedial work was performed to excavate and remove hydrocarbon-contaminated soils and extract hydrocarbon vapors from the soil. Upon completion of the remediation work, extensive soil sampling verified that clean-up efforts met state, federal, and local environmental health and safety standards.

The purposes of this report are to: 1) identify existing biological resources; 2) evaluate the potential impacts of future development on biological resources; and 3) identify biological mitigation measures needed to ensure consistency with the City's biological resource protection policies and development standards, and avoid, reduce, and minimize potential biological impacts to acceptable (less-than-significant) levels.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The parcel is approximately 1.22 acres in size but work would also occur within a 0.30 acre Hollister Avenue easement on the south side of the parcel (Figure 2). Proposed work includes development of a new single-story fire station, approximately 11,600 square feet in size, with three apparatus bays and ancillary uses such as accessory hose drying rack, trash enclosure, small storage building and fuel station (above ground fuel storage tanks – 250 gallons, gasoline and 1,250 gallons of diesel).

3.0 SURVEY METHODS

Watershed Environmental, Inc. biologist Mark de la Garza and environmental analyst Melodee Hickman performed field surveys of the project site on June 24, 2016. Surveys consisted of walking the 1.52-acre study area. Field notes were used to record direct observations of plant community/habitat types and botanical and wildlife resources. Botanical surveys were performed following the California Native Plant Society's recommended survey guidelines (CNPS 2001), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 2001), and the CDFG Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFG 2009). Wildlife surveys followed standard professional practices and the City of Goleta *Biological Survey Guidelines* (SBCO 1995; contained in SBCO's *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual,* updated 2002). Background biological information was obtained from the *Special-Status Species and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Map* (City of Goleta 2008), the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFG 2016), the *Haskell's Landing Project Addendum to 94-EIR-9 Goleta General Plan EIR* (City of Goleta 2009), and the *Hollister/Cathedral Oaks Overcrossing Replacement*, *Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration* (Caltrans 2006).

Figure 1. Location Map

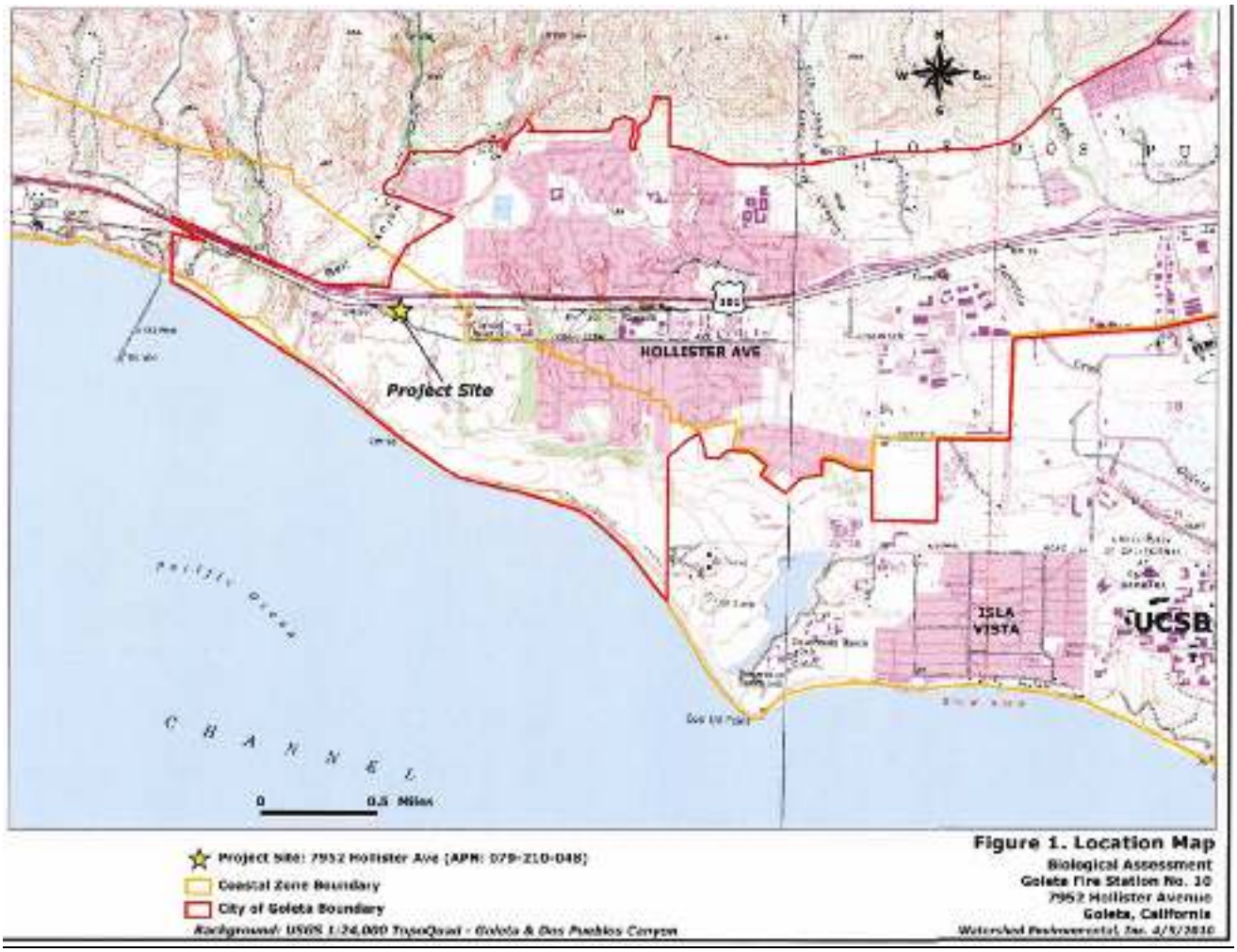
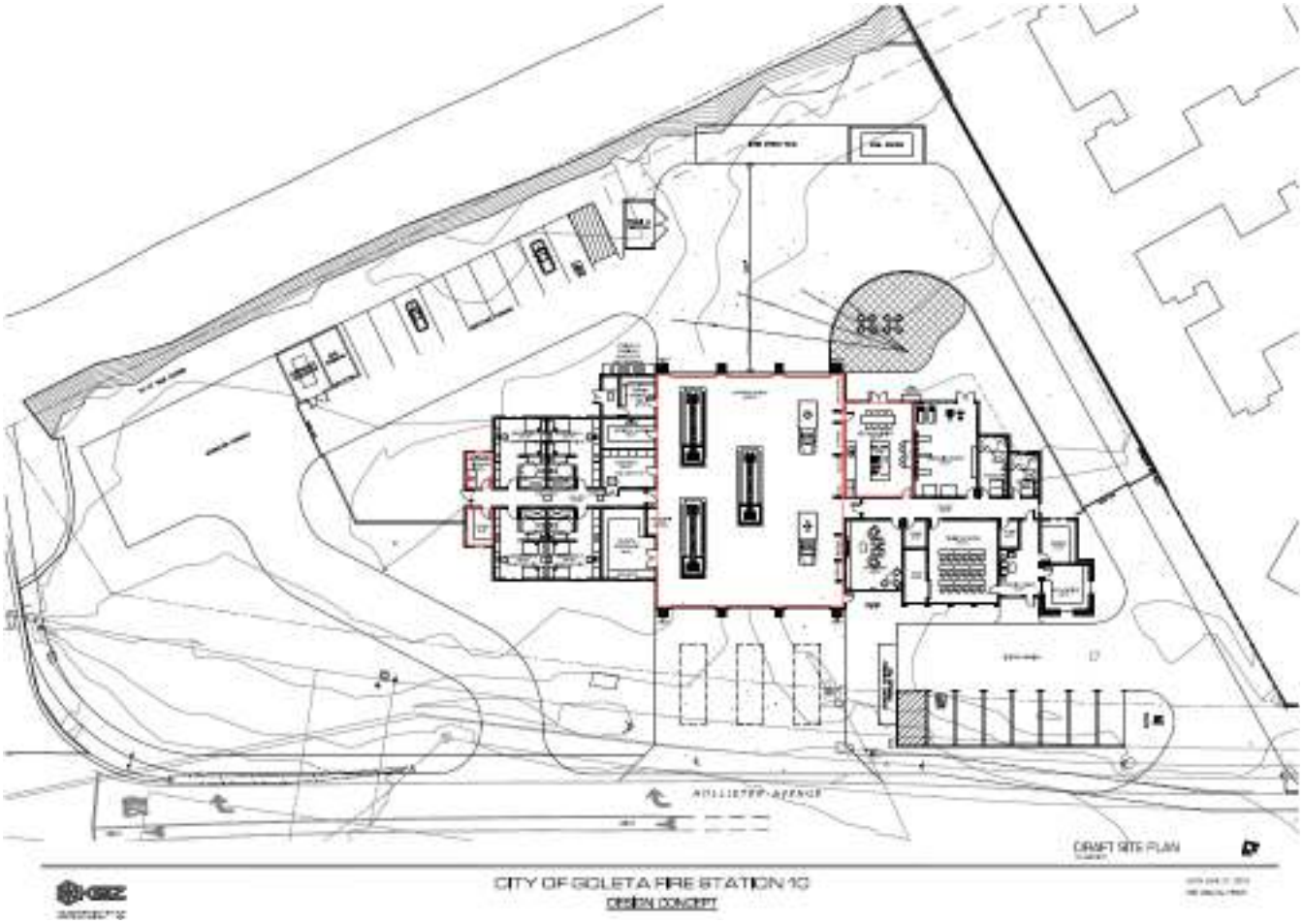


Figure 2. Site Plan



4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

4.1 Land Use

The property is zoned for commercial use and has a zoning designation of limited commercial (zoning map symbol C-1). The southern edge of the property abuts Hollister Avenue. Existing and future vehicle access to the site will be from Hollister Avenue.

Adjacent land use to the north is a transportation corridor that includes the Southern Pacific Railroad and the 101 Freeway. A 101-unit residential development known as the Hideaway Bungalows & Coastal Preserve (formerly known as Haskell's Landing) is located on the adjacent parcel to the east. The Sandpiper Golf Course is located across Hollister Avenue south of the project site. Cathedral Oak Road is located immediately west of the project site.

4.2 Topography and Soils

The site is nearly level, with a gradual (less than 2 percent) slope to the south. Elevations range from a high of 120 ft. in the northwest corner to a low of 114.5 ft. in the southeast corner. The Union Pacific Railroad property located immediately adjacent (north) to the project site has a steep, eroded, cut bank that drops down 10-15 ft. to the railroad bed.

The soils on the project area are Milpitas-Positas find sandy loam (MeC) (USDA 1972). This soil complex consists of 40 percent Milpitas fine sandy loam and 40 percent Positas fine sandy loam. This soil type typically occurs on terraces. Both Milpitas and Positas soils are classified as being moderately well drained, having a medium runoff rate, and moderate erosion hazard. Neither fine, sandy, loam soil type is present on the National Hydric Soils list (NRCS 2015).

4.3 Creeks and Drainages

There are no creeks or drainages on the 1.22-acre project site, nor are there any drainage improvements such as man-made drainage ditches, drainage pipes, or culverts. The nearest creek/drainage is Devereaux Creek, which traverses in a north-south direction through the adjacent property to the east and is approximately 675 ft. from the project site. The segment of Devereux Creek on the adjacent property to the east is mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey as a dashed blue line stream, indicating that it has intermittent ephemeral flow (USGS 1995).

4.4 Environmentally Sensitive and Critical Habitat

The project site does not contain any previously mapped or identified special-status species habitat or environmentally sensitive habitat (ESH) (City of Goleta 2006, County of Santa Barbara 2007, Caltrans 2006). As part of this assessment, we accessed the US Fish and Wildlife Service's online critical habitat mapper, and determined that critical habitat exists for the following species within 5 mi. of the project site: threatened western snowy plover *(Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus)* approximately 1.15 mi. southeast of the project site; endangered tidewater goby *(Eucyclogobius newberryi)* approximately 0.5 mi. southwest of the project site; and endangered Southern California steelhead DPS *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)* approximately 0.7 mi. west of the project site. The site itself does not contain any federally designated critical habitat, nor

does it have suitable beach-dune habitat for western snowy plover or aquatic habitat for tidewater goby or Southern California steelhead.

The 2 closest locally designated areas of ESH are: 1) a eucalyptus tree grove used by monarch butterflies as a winter roost/aggregation site and 2) a patch of riparian/marsh/vernal habitat. Both areas are located on the adjacent property to the east. The monarch butterfly roosting/aggregation site is located in a eucalyptus grove approximately 720 ft. east of the project site and the riparian/marsh/vernal habitat is located approximately 675 ft. east of the project site adjacent to Devereux Creek. Residential development exists between the project site and both of these sites. Two other ESH areas in the project vicinity were identified by Caltrans in their environmental review of the Hollister/Cathedral Oaks Overcrossing Replacement (2006 Caltrans): 1) a plunge pool below the Highway 101 Devereux Creek culvert on the south side of the 101 Freeway, where an individual California red-legged frog was observed in 2001 and 2) a patch of coastal sage scrub vegetation containing approximately 25 Santa Barbara honeysuckle plants north of Calle Real and west of Cathedral Oaks Drive.

5.0 SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

We performed vegetation community and land cover mapping by identifying the vegetation and land cover types on the ground while doing surveys in the field and mapping the aerial extent on a 1-in.=50-ft. color aerial photograph taken in May 2015. "Land cover" is a term used to describe developed areas that contain no vegetation, typically referring to structures and paved surfaces. Vegetation type classification and nomenclature follows the methodology described in *A Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* (2009 Sayer, Keeler-Wolf, Evens). This vegetation classification system has 3 main categories based on the following criteria:

1. **Forests and Woodlands** with a tree canopy of at least 10 percent over denser layers of shrubs and herbaceous species.
2. **Shrublands** with at least 10 percent shrub cover and less than 10 percent tree cover; herbaceous species may have total higher cover than shrubs.
3. **Herbaceous** dominated by graminoids (grasses) and forbs with less than 10 percent shrubs, sub-shrubs, and trees.

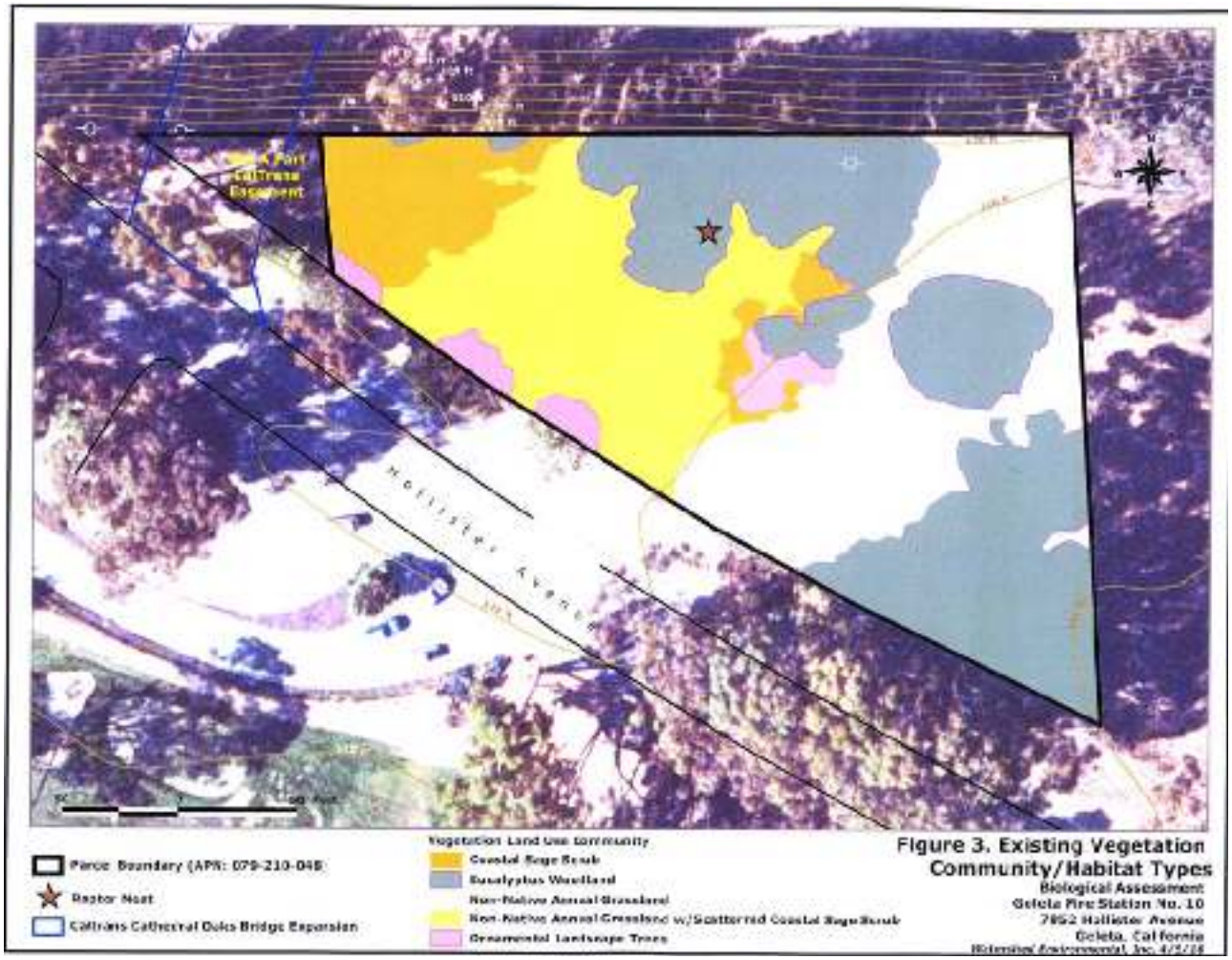
In this report we identify environmentally sensitive habitat as habitat/vegetation types the City of Goleta designates as environmentally sensitive; and/or meet the criteria contained in the Goleta *General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan* (City of Goleta 2006); and/or are considered threatened in California and ranked S3.2 or higher by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2010).

Within the 1.52-acre study area, we identified 6 different vegetation types (Table 1). Figure 3 depicts the locations of the existing vegetation and land cover types. A description of vegetation and land cover types is provided in Section 5.1.1 below.

Table 1. Existing Vegetation Communities/Wildlife Habitat

Vegetation and Land Cover Type	Area (Sq. Ft.)	Area (Acres)
Vegetation Types		
Coastal Sage Scrub	5,304	0.12
Coastal Sage Scrub/Ruderal	4,613	0.11
Eucalyptus Woodland	26,726	0.61
Non-Native Grassland	9,918	0.23
Non-Native Grassland/Ruderal	10,441	0.24
Ornamental Landscape Trees	4,160	0.10
Land Cover Types		
Asphalt Roadway	99	0.00
Concrete Electrical Vault	99	0.00
Concrete Bridge Abutment	785	0.02
Disturbed/Bare Dirt	4,007	0.09
Total	**66,152**	**1.52**

Figure 3. Existing Vegetation Community/Habitat Types



5.1.1 Description of Vegetation Types

Coastal Sage Scrub There are two stands of this vegetation: one in the northwestern portion of the study area and the other in the central portion of the study area (refer to Figure 3). The stand in the northwestern portion of the study area is dominated by California sagebrush and coyote brush. The stand in the central portion of the study area is dominated by coastal California buckwheat. Applying the nomenclature rules in the 2009 *Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* classification scheme, these vegetation stands respectively meet the classification criteria to be called *Artemisia californica- Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea* Shrubland Alliance and *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance. These vegetation types have a global rarity rank of G5 and state rarity rank of S5, meaning they are considered secure at both state and global levels (CNDDB 2010).

The two coastal sage scrub stands in the study area have very low native plant diversity compared to other coastal sage scrub communities occurring nearby. The only other native species found onsite within these stands are: bee plant *(Scrophularia californica* ssp. *californica),* small-flowered melic *(Melica imperfecta),* poison oak *(Toxicodendron diversilobum),* green everlasting *(Gnaphalium californicum),* deerweed *(Acmispon glaber* var. *glaber),* western vervain *(Verbena lasiostachys),* and Bigelow's spike-moss *(Selaginella bigelovii).* These other plants are present in low numbers and are not considered dominants.

Coastal Sage Scrub/Ruderal This vegetation type occurs in the southwestern portion of the study area in locations that have been disturbed by contaminated soil remediation and soil-sampling activities (refer to Figure 3). Dominant vegetation includes scattered California sagebrush *(Artemesia californica),* coyote brush *(Baccharis pilularis),* black mustard *(Brassica nigra)* herbs, and wild oat *(Avena fatua)* and false brome *(Brachypodium sylvaticum)* grasses. Applying the nomenclature rules in the 2009 *Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* classification scheme, this vegetation stand meets the classification criteria to be called *Artemisia californica-Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea/Brassica nigra* Shrubland Alliance. This vegetation type has approximately 15-30 percent native California sagebrush and coyote brush shrub cover with 70-85 percent non-native herb and non-native grass cover. This vegetation type has a global rarity rank of G5 and a state rarity rank of S5, meaning it is secure at global and state levels (CNDDB 2010).

Eucalyptus Woodland This vegetation type occurs in the northern and southeastern portion of the study area (refer to Figure 3). The dominant tree in this community is blue gum eucalyptus *(Eucalyptus globulus).* There is little understory vegetation beneath the canopy of these trees due to the deep accumulation of leaf litter and the leaching of phytotoxins (phenolic acids and terpenes) from leaf litter and fog drip from the leaves and canopy of these trees, which inhibit the growth of other plants. Some of the trees are dead but standing, and others are in severely declining heath due to the water stress caused by the ongoing drought. Applying the nomenclature rules in the 2009 *Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* classification scheme, this vegetation type meets the classification criteria to be called *Eucalyptus globulus* Semi-Natural Woodland Stand. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Data Base has not assigned a global or state rarity ranking to this non-native vegetation type (CNDDB 2010).

Non-native Grassland This vegetation type occurs in the eastern portion of the study area (refer to Figure 3). The dominant species in this community are: ripgut brome

(*Bromus diandrus)*, soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus)*, and red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*). Other grasses present include: wild oat *(Avena fatua),* rattail fescue *(Vulpia myuros),* false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum)*, Italian rye *(Lolium multiflorum),* smilo grass *(Piptatherum miliaceum),* and Bermuda grass *(Cynodon dactylon).* Applying the nomenclature rules in the 2009 *Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* classification scheme, this vegetation type meets the classification criteria to be called *Bromus diandrus- Bromus hordeaceus- Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stand. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Data Base has not assigned a global or state rarity ranking to this non-native vegetation type (CNDDB 2010).

Non-native Grassland/Ruderal This vegetation type occurs in the central portion of the study area. The dominant species present in this vegetation type are ripgut brome, soft chess, red brome, and black mustard. This vegetation type is very similar to the non-native grassland community described above, but is distinguished by the prevalence of black mustard. Other non-native ruderal species present include: scarlet pimpernel *(Anagallis arvensis),* Italian thistle *(Carduus pycnocephalus),* flax-leaved fleabane *(Erigeron bonariensis),* tocolote *(Centaurea melitensis),* redstem filaree *(Erodium cicutarium),* cheeseweed *(Marva parviflora),* fennel *(Foeniculum vulgare),* and bur clover *(Medicago polymorpha).* Applying the nomenclature rules in the 2009 *Manual of California Vegetation 2nd Edition* classification scheme, this vegetation type meets the classification criteria to be called *Bromus diandrus- Bromus hordeaceus- Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens-Brassica nigra* Semi-Natural Herbaceous Stand. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Data Base has not assigned a global or state rarity ranking to this non-native vegetation type (CNDDB 2010).

Ornamental Landscape Trees This vegetation type occurs in the southwest portion of the study area adjacent to Hollister Avenue and the portion of the study area adjacent to Cathedral Oaks Road, in additional to a single olive tree in the central portion of the study area. There are three carrotwood trees *(Cupaniopsis anacardioides)* located in the southwestern portion of the study area, and several small (less than 10 ft. tall) western sycamore *(Platanus racemose)* and Santa Cruz Island ironwood trees *(Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp*. aspleniifolius)* located in the study area adjacent to Cathedral Oaks Road, which appear to have planted by Caltrans sometime in 2013-2014 after they completed construction of the new Cathedral Oaks Road freeway railroad overpass. The olive tree *(Olea europaea)* in the central portion of the study area was probably planted by a passing bird that dropped an olive pit.

5.1.2 Vegetation

A total of 55 different species of plants were observed on the property (Table 2). Approximately 78 percent of the species present are nonnative and 22 percent are native. The number of nonnative plant species is higher than normal, but reflects the fact that the site was previously developed.

Table 2. Vegetation Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native (N) Introduced (I)
Acmispon glaber	deerweed	N
Amaryllis belladonna	naked lady	I
Anagallis arvensis	scarlet pimpernel	I
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	N
Atriplex semibaccata	Australian saltbush	I
Avena fatua	wild oat	I
Baccharis pilularis var. *consanguinea*	coyote brush	N
Brachypodium distachyon	false brome	I
Brassica nigra	black mustard	I
Bromus carinatus var. *carinatus*	California brome	I
Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome	I
Bromus hordeaceus	soft chess	I
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens*	red brome	I
Carduus pycnocephalus ssp. *pycnocephalus*	Italian thistle	I
Centaurea melitensis	tocolote	I
Convolvulus arvensis	bindweed	I
Cynodon dactylon	bermudagrass	I
Erigeron bonariensis	flax-leaved fleabane	I
Eriogonum fasciculatum var. *fasciculatum*	coastal California buckwheat	N
Erodium cicutarium	redstem filaree	I
Eucalyptus globulus	blue gum eucalyptus	I
Euphorbia peplus	petty spurge	I
Festuca myuros	rattail fescue	I
Festuca perennis	Italian rye	I
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	I
Geranium dissectum	cut-leaved geranium	I
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraphweed	N
Hordeum murinum ssp. *leporinum*	foxtail	I
Hypochaeris glabra	smooth cat's ear	I
Hypochaeris radicata	hairy cat's ear	I
Juniperus communis	juniper bush	I
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce	I
Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. *floribundus*	Santa Cruz Island ironwood	N
Malva parviflora	cheeseweed	I
Medicago polymorpha	bur clover	I
Melica imperfecta	small-flowered melic	N
Melilotus indicus	yellow sweet clover	I
Nicotiana glauca	tree tobacco	I
Olea europaea	olive tree	I
Oxalis pes-caprae	sour-grass	I
Phalaris aquatica	Harding grass	I
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain	I
Platanus racemosa	western sycamore	N
Polypogon monspeliensis	rabbitsfoot grass	I

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native (N) Introduced (I)
Pseudognaphalium californicum	green everlasting	N
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum	cudweed	I
Raphanus sativus	wild radish	I
Scrophularia californica ssp. *californica*	bee plant	I
Selaginella bigelovii	Bigelow's spike-moss	N
Sonchus oleraceus	sowthistle	I
Stipa miliacea var. *miliacea*	smilo grass	I
Taraxacum officinale	dandelion	I
Toxicodendron diversilobum	poison oak	N
Verbena lasiostachys var. *lasiostachys*	western vervain	N
Vicia sativa ssp. *sativa*	common vetch	I

5.2 Wildlife

Wildlife use is limited to a few relatively common species that are adapted to an urban environment and can tolerate high levels of noise, night lighting, and human disturbance. The only wildlife species observed during the performance of the June 24, 2016 field survey were common birds, a few common reptiles, and small mammals. Table 3 contains a list of wildlife species observed and expected to occur on the project site.

Table 3. Wildlife Observed and Expected to Occur in Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Seasonal Status	Site Status
Amphibians			
black-bellied slender salamander	*Batrachoseps nigriventris*	RB	E
California tree frog	*Pseudacris* (=*Hyla*) *cadaverina*	RB	E
western toad	*Bufo boreas*	RB	E
Pacific tree frog	*Pseudacris* (=*Hyla*) *regilla*	RB	E
Reptiles			
common king snake	*Lampropeltis getulus*	RB	E
gopher snake	*Pituophis catenifer*	RB	E
southern alligator lizard	*Elgaria multicarinata*	RB	E
western fence lizard	*Sceloporus occidentalis*	RB	O
western skink	*Eumeces skiltonianus*	RB	E
western rattlesnake	*Crotalus viridis*	RB	E
Birds			
acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*	RB	E
Allen's hummingbird	*Selasphorus sasin*	M	E
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	RB	O
American goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*	WV	E
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	RB	E
American robin	*Turdus migratorius*	WV	E
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*	RB	O

Common Name	Scientific Name	Seasonal Status	Site Status
ash-throated flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*	SB	P
band-tailed pigeon	*Columda fasciata*	RB	E
barn owl	*Tyto alba*	RB	E
barn swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	SB	E
Bewick's wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*	RB	E
black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	RB	O
black-headed grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*	SB	P
black-shouldered kite	*Elanus axillaris*	RB	E
brown towhee	*Pipilo fuscus*	RB	O
brown-headed cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	SB	E
bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*	RB	O
California quail	*Callipepla californica*	RB	E
California thrasher	*Toxostoma redivivum*	RB	P
California towhee	*Pipilo crissalis*	RB	O
cedar waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*	WV	P
cliff swallow	*Hirundo pyrrhonota*	SB	E
common yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	RB	E
Cooper’s hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	RB	P
dark-eyed junco	*Junco hyemalis*	RB	E
downy woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	RB	P
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	I	E
golden-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia atricapilla*	WV	E
great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*	RB	E
great horned owl	*Bubo virginianus*	RB	E
house finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*	RB	O
house sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	I	E
house wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	RB	E
killdeer	*Charadrius vociferous*	RB	E
Lawrence’s goldfinch	*Carduelis lawrencei*	M	P
lesser goldfinch	*Carduelis psaltria*	RB	P
loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	WV	P
mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*	SB	O
northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*	RB	E
northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	WV	E
northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	RB	O
northern oriole	*Icterus bullockii*	M	P
Nuttall’s woodpecker	*Picoides nuttallii*	RB	E
oak titmouse	*Bacolophus ridgwayi*	RB	E
Pacific-slope flycatcher	*Empidonax difficilis*	SB	E
purple finch	*Carpodacus purpurius*	RB	E
red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	RB	O
red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	RB	O
rock pigeon	*Columba livia*	RB	O
ruby-crowned kinglet	*Regulus calendula*	WV	O
rufous-crowned sparrow	*Aimophila ruficeps*	RB	E
Say’s phoebe	*Sayornis saya*	RB	E
sharp-shinned hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	WV	P
song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	RB	E

Common Name	Scientific Name	Seasonal Status	Site Status
spotted towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*	RB	E
turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*	V	O
western gull	*Larus occidentalis*	RB	E
western screech-owl	*Otus kennicottii*	RB	P
western scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*	RB	O
white-breasted nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*	RB	P
white-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*	WV	E
white-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	RB	E
white-throated swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	V	P
wrentit	*Chamaea fasciata*	RB	P
yellow warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	V	P
yellow-rumped warbler	*Dendroica coronata*	WV	O
Mammals			
big brown bat	*Eptesicus fuscus*	SB	E
black-tailed deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*	RB	P
black rat	*Rattus rattus*	I	E
bobcat	*Lynx rufus*	RB	P
Botta's pocket gopher	*Thomomys bottae*	RB	O
Brazilian free-tailed bat	*Tadarida brasiliensis*	RB	S
broad-footed mole	*Scapanus latimanus*	RB	E
brush rabbit	*Sylvilagus bachmani*	RB	O
California ground squirrel	*Spermophilus beecheyi*	RB	E
California mouse	*Peromyscus californicus*	RB	E
California myotis	*Myotis californicus*	SB	E
California vole	*Microtus californicus*	RB	E
coyote	*Canis latrans*	V	P
deer mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*	RB	E
dusky-foot woodrat	*Neotoma fuscipes*	RB	P
feral cat	*Felis catus*	I	E
red fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	RB	P
gray fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*	RB	P
Merriam's chipmunk	*Eutamias merriami*	RB	P
ornate shrew	*Sorex ornatus*	RB	P
pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	SB	P
raccoon	*Procyon lotor*	V	E
striped skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*	V	E
Virginia opossum	*Didelphis virginiana*	I	E
western harvest mouse	*Reithrodontomys megalotis*	RB	E
western spotted skunk	*Spilogale gracilis*	V	E

Codes
Seasonal Status: RB = Resident Breeder; SB = Summer Breeder; M = Migrant; V = Visitor; WV = Winter Visitor; I = Introduced Species
Site Status: E = Expected to occur at the project site; O = Observed on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site; P = Potential to occur

5.2.1 Migration Corridors and Wildlife Movement

The project site is adjacent to the 101 Freeway and Union Pacific Rail Road transportation corridor to the north, the Hideaway Bungalows & Coastal Preserve residential development to the east, Hollister Avenue and the Sandpiper Golf Course to the south and Cathedral Oaks Road to the west. The Fire Station No. 10 project site is isolated from any undeveloped land by the adjacent roadways and residential development. The only undeveloped land (i.e., wildlife habitat) is a 2-acre open space area in the center of the Hideaway Bungalows residential development to the east and Sandpiper Golf Course to the south. During performance of our field surveys, we did not see any evidence (game trails, scat accumulations, or tracks) of a wildlife corridor, nor does the project site contain any creeks, drainages, water courses, or swales that could be used by aquatic or terrestrial wildlife as a migration or movement corridor. The terrestrial wildlife species in the project area (refer to Table 3) are considered resident, nonmigratory species.

5.3 Sensitive Species and Habitats

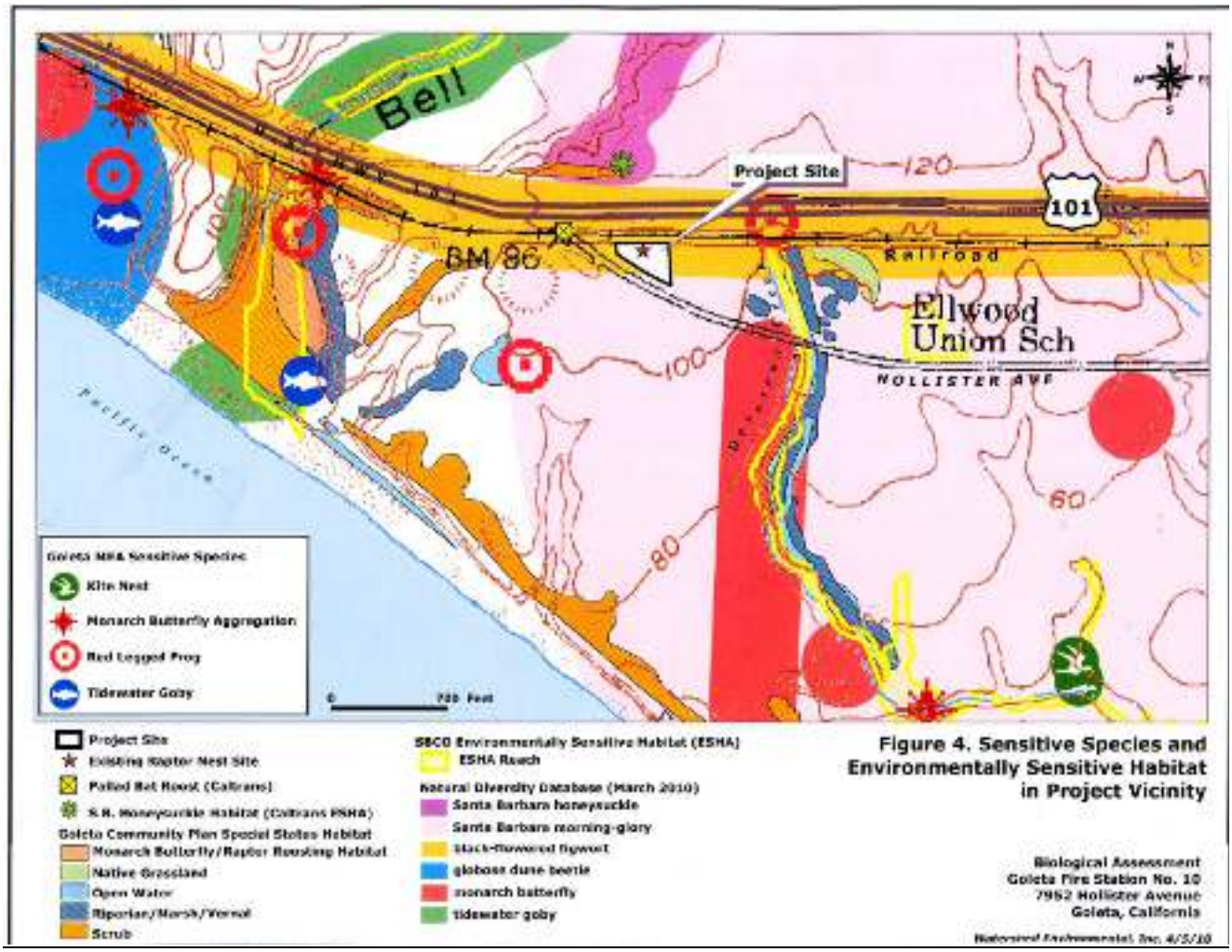
As part of our assessment, we reviewed the CDFG 2016 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) occurrence records, the City of Goleta's *Special-Status Species and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Map* (City of Goleta 2006), the *Haskell's Landing Project Addendum to 94-EIR-9 Goleta General Plan EIR* (City of Goleta 2009), and the *Hollister/Cathedral Oaks Overcrossing Replacement*, *Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration* (Caltrans 2006) to see if any sensitive wildlife or plant species observation records existed in the project vicinity. Review of these documents revealed no previously recorded sensitive species observations on the proposed fire station property, although there are recent and historic sensitive wildlife and plant species observations in the project vicinity (Figure 4).

The following sensitive species have been observed within a 3-mi. radius of the project site:

California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)
Status: federally endangered, CDFG Sensitive Species.

A single California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) was seen in the plunge pool below the Highway 101 Devereux Creek culvert on the south side of the 101 Freeway in 2001 (Caltrans 2006). This location is approximately 480 ft. from the eastern parcel boundary of the proposed fire station. California red-legged frogs are also known to occur in the large pond located on the Sandpiper Golf Course approximately 875 ft. southwest of the project site, in Tecolote Creek 0.67 mi. west of the project site, and in Bell Canyon 0.4 mi. west of project site (refer to Figure 4). Surveys in the upland habitat present in the study area were performed by Watershed Environmental biologist Mark de la Garza on June 24, 2016, but this species was not found. The project site does not have any aquatic habitat and is not hydrologically connected (i.e., drainage courses) to Devereux Creek or the golf course pond in which California red-legged frogs have historically been found. Given the lack of hydrologic connection and physical obstacles (i.e., Hollister Avenue, Cathedral Oaks Road, the 101 Freeway, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Hideaway Bungalows & Coastal Preserve residential development) to movement of red-legged frogs from the nearest locations where they have historically been reported, we have concluded that there is no potential for red-legged frogs to occur in the project area.

Figure 4. Sensitive Species and Environmentally Sensitive Habitat in Project Vicinity



Santa Barbara honeysuckle *(Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata)*
Status: CNPS List 1B

Approximately 25 Santa Barbara honeysuckle plants were found in 2005 growing in coastal sage scrub/grassland vegetation north of Calle Real and west of Cathedral Oaks Drive (Caltrans 2006). This stand is located approximately 575 ft. north of the proposed fire station on the north side of the Southern Pacific Railroad and 101 Freeway. This plant was not found in the study area during performance of the June 24, 2016 botanical survey and does not occur on the Fire Station 10 property.

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus)*
Status: CDFG Sensitive Species, and Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species

The old Hollister Avenue Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad that was demolished in 2010 contained a colony of pallid bats and a maternity colony of Mexican free-tailed bats. The old bridge containing these bat colonies was located approximately 480 ft. east of the proposed fire station's eastern parcel boundary. The 1.22-acre parcel where the fire station is proposed does not contain any suitable pallid bat roost or colony sites.

Monarch butterfly *(Danaus plexippus)*
Status: Winter aggregation sites are listed by the CDFG as vulnerable to extirpation (S3).

There is a known monarch butterfly winter aggregation site in a grove of eucalyptus trees located approximately 720 ft. east of the proposed fire station parcel boundary. There is also a known winter aggregation site near Tecolote Creek 0.67 mi. west of the site and 5 other known aggregation sites on the Ellwood Mesa approximately 0.6-0.9 mi. southeast of the project site (refer to Figure 4). A small grove of bluegum eucalyptus trees in the southeast corner of the study area (refer to Figure 3) is not considered suitable to be used by monarch butterflies as a winter aggregation site because the grove is not large or dense enough to provide the required wind shelter.

Raptors *(Buteo* sp., *Falco* sp., *Elanus sp., Accipiter* sp.*)*
Status: Active raptor nest sites are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and by Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Code.

Historically, red-tailed hawks and red-shouldered hawks have constructed nests in the blue gum eucalyptus trees on and near the project site. Surveys for raptor nests were performed on June 24, 2016, but no nests were found within the study area or within 500 ft. of the project site.

6.0 POTENTIAL PROJECT EFFECTS TO BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section describes the potential short-term and long-term impacts to biological resources resulting from construction and operation of the new fire station. Short-term impacts are those associated with site preparation and construction. Long-term impacts are those that would persist after construction during operation of the facility.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the potential effects of a project be evaluated by the lead agency responsible for issuing a permit. In this case, the City of Goleta is the lead agency. Factors are considered to have a "significant

effect on the environment" if they cause a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change in any of the existing physical conditions within the area affected by the project (CEQA Guidelines 15382).

To facilitate the CEQA environmental review of the project, we have provided a completed CEQA checklist for biological resources in Appendix A of this report. We have also classified biological impacts into the following categories:

a. beneficial
b. adverse, significant, and unavoidable
c. adverse, significant, but mitigatable
d. adverse, but less than significant
e. none, no impact

6.1 Wildlife

Impact 1. Wildlife Habitat Loss
The wildlife species observed and expected to occur in the project area are mostly commonly found, widespread species. Construction of the project will require clearing the site of all vegetation, including: 0.12 acre of coastal sage scrub, 0.11 acre coastal sage scrub/ruderal, 0.61 acre of eucalyptus woodland, 0.23 acre non-native grassland, 0.24 acre non-native grassland/ruderal, and 0.10 acre of ornamental landscape trees. None of the vegetation that will be removed is considered rare, threatened, or endangered. In fact, most of the vegetation that will be removed is non-native. The loss of this habitat caused by development will displace the wildlife that is currently residing there. Highly mobile species such as birds are expected to relocate to other areas, while less mobile species such as ground-dwelling small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians will likely be killed during the site development and construction phase of the project. Upon completion of construction, the undeveloped portions of the project site will be landscaped with a mixture of native and ornamental trees, native and non-native shrubs, and turf grass. This landscaping will provide wildlife habitat for many of the species that currently occupy the site.

The short- and long-term loss of 0.12 acre of coastal sage scrub, 0.11 acre coastal sage scrub/ruderal, 0.61 acre of eucalyptus woodland, 0.23 acre non-native grassland, 0.24 acre non-native grassland/ruderal, and 0.10 acre of ornamental landscape trees is considered **adverse, but less than significant** because these community types are common in the area, and are not considered high-quality wildlife habitat due to the isolated location of the site and dominance of non-native plant species.

Impact 2. Increased Noise and Light Wildlife Disturbance
Development of the proposed project will increase the already high human presence in the area. Heavy equipment operation and construction noise will cause short-term impacts. Long-term impacts will occur with increased human use and additional night lighting. The increased noise and light have the potential to reduce wildlife usage, particularly for nesting birds. However, given the project site proximity to Hollister Avenue, the 101 Freeway, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and Hollister/Cathedral Oaks Road, the increased noise and night lighting due to the project will be incrementally small.

The short- and long-term impacts of increased noise and light on wildlife are considered **adverse, but less than significant** because noise and night-lighting levels are already high and will only incrementally increase as a result of the project.

Impact 3. Nesting Bird Disturbance
Construction of the proposed project will require the permanent removal of approximately 0.61 acre of blue gum eucalyptus trees and 0.10 acre of ornamental landscape trees. Surveys were performed for active and inactive raptor nests within and adjacent to (within 500 ft. of) the project site, and none were found. However, the potential still exists for disturbance of active raptor nests and other bird nests in trees and shrubs within and adjacent to the project site should construction occur during the bird breeding season (February 1-August 15). Active raptor nest sites are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and by Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Code. In addition, the City's Conservation Element Policy 8.4 requires protection of active and historical raptor nest sites when feasible.

In addition to the removal of eucalyptus and ornamental landscape trees, construction of the project will require removal of all shrub and grassland vegetation onsite. There is the potential for several different species of birds to be nesting in that vegetation onsite and adjacent to the project site.

Short-term impacts to nesting birds caused by removal of all vegetation onsite are considered ***adverse, significant, but mitigatable*.**

Long-term impacts to nesting birds are considered ***none, no impact*.**

6.2 Vegetation

Impact 4. Vegetation Removal
The majority of the vegetation in the study area is non-native. Of the 6 vegetation types identified and mapped, only the 0.12 acre of coastal sage scrub and 0.11 acre of coastal sage scrub/ruderal contains native plant species (refer to Impact 1). None of the native plant species occurring on the project site are considered sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered. The majority of the 0.12 acre of coastal sage scrub vegetation on the project site is located in the westernmost portion of the project area and is isolated by Cathedral Oaks Road to the west, the Southern Pacific Railroad and 101 Freeway to the north, Hollister Avenue to the south, and the Hideaway Bungalows & Coastal Preserve to the east.

The City of Goleta Conservation Element Policy CE 1.2 identifies specific areas containing coastal sage scrub vegetation as a significant natural plant community and as such has designated these areas as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas

(ESHAs). The coastal sage scrub vegetation occurring on the project site is not one of the areas identified as an ESHA by the City (City of Goleta 2006). Areas that are not designated by the City as ESHA are subject to the same protections, provided that they meet the City's criteria to be classified as ESHA as stated in Conservation Element Policy CE 1.1. The criteria to be classified as ESHA are:

a. Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and that could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments.

b. Any area that includes habitat for species and plant communities recognized as threatened or endangered by the state or federal governments; plant communities recognized by the State of California (in the Terrestrial Natural Communities Inventory) as restricted in distribution and very threatened; and those habitat types of limited distribution recognized to be of particular habitat value, including wetlands, riparian vegetation, eucalyptus groves associated with monarch butterfly roosts, oak woodlands, and savannas.

c. Any area that has been previously designated as an ESHA by a competent authority.

The coastal sage scrub vegetation on the project site is dominated by coyote brush *(Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea),* California sagebrush *(Artemisia californica),* and coastal California buckwheat *(Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum)* this type of scrub vegetation is not considered "rare" or a "special community" by the State of California (CDFG 2010). It is not in our professional opinion considered to be "especially valuable" due to its small size, low diversity, and isolated location.

In addition to the policies described above, Conservation Element Policy CE 5.3 specifically protects coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat and reads as follows:

a. For purposes of this policy, existing coastal sage scrub is defined as a drought-tolerant, Mediterranean habitat characterized by soft-leaved, shallow-rooted subshrubs such as California sagebrush *(Artemisia californica)*, coyote bush *(Baccharis pilularis)*, and California encelia *(Encelia californica)*. It is found at lower elevations in both coastal and interior areas where moist maritime air penetrates inland. Chaparral is composed mainly of fire- and drought-adapted woody, evergreen shrubs and generally occupies hills and lower mountain slopes.

b. To the maximum extent feasible, development shall avoid impacts to coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats that would destroy, isolate, interrupt, or cause a break in continuous habitat that would (1) disrupt associated bird and animal movement patterns and seed dispersal, and (2) increase erosion and sedimentation impacts to nearby creeks or drainages.

c. Impacts to coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats shall be minimized by providing at least a 25-foot buffer restored with native species around the perimeter of the delineated habitat area.

d. Removal of nonnative and invasive exotic species shall be allowed; revegetation shall be with plants or seeds collected within the same watershed whenever feasible.

It is our interpretation that policy CE 5.3 does not apply to the coastal sage scrub vegetation present on the project site. This policy is intended to protect coastal sage scrub vegetation that is designated as ESHA and/or meets the City's criteria to be

classified as ESHA. The coastal sage scrub vegetation on the project site does not meet this criteria for the reasons described above.

Short-term impacts to vegetation caused by removal of 0.12 acre of coastal sage scrub vegetation and 0.11 acre of coastal sage scrub/ruderal vegetation are considered ***adverse, but less than significant.***

Long-term impacts to vegetation caused by removal of coastal sage scrub vegetation are considered ***adverse, but less than significant.***

6.3 Special-Status Species and Habitats

Impact 5. Direct and Indirect Impacts to Sensitive Species
Surveys for special status species were performed within and adjacent to the project area. No sensitive wildlife species, sensitive wildlife breeding habitat, or sensitive plants were found. However, there are a number of sensitive species observations in the project vicinity including: California red-legged frog *(Rana aurora draytonii)*, pallid bat *(Antrozous pallidus),* red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis),* red shouldered hawk *(Buteo lineatus),* and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus)*. Refer to Figure 4 for location of these occurrence records. The project site is completely isolated from any undeveloped area and there is no wetland or aquatic habitat present in the project site or any hydrologic connection to any nearby aquatic habitat in Devereux Creek or the pond at Sandpiper Golf Course. The habitat present on the project site is severely degraded from past land use activities and is isolated and fragmented from any natural habitat. Sensitive wildlife and plant species were not found in the project site during performance of the June 24, 2016 field survey, nor are any sensitive plant or wildlife species (with the exception of raptor nests) expected to occur on the project site in the future.

Short-and long-term direct and indirect impacts to special status species, and habitats are considered to be *none, no impact*.

7.0 POLICY SETTING

This section provides an analysis of the proposed project consistency with the applicable biological resource protection policies contained in the *Conservation Element of the Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan* (City of Goleta 2003).

Policy CE 1.1 Definition of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas
None of the habitat and/or plant communities present on the project site meet the criteria to be classified as ESHA.

Policy CE 1.2 Designation of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas
The project site does not contain any City- or state-designated/mapped ESHA.

Policy CE 1.3 Site-Specific Studies and Unmapped ESHAs
The coastal sage scrub vegetation on the project site was evaluated to determine if it met the City's criteria to be classified as ESHA. The coastal sage scrub vegetation on the project site is dominated by coyote brush *(Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea),* California sagebrush *(Artemisia californica),* and coastal California buckwheat *(Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum).* This type of scrub vegetation is not considered "rare" or a "special community" by the State of California (CDFG 2010). It is

not in our professional opinion considered to be "especially valuable" due to its small size, low diversity, and isolated location.

Policy CE 1.6 Protection of ESHAs
We have concluded that the coastal sage scrub and other habitat types occurring on the project site do not meet the City's ESHA designation criteria. Therefore, the ESHA protection standards contained in this policy do not apply.

Policy CE 4.1—CE 4.6 Protection of Monarch Butterfly Habitat Areas
The small grove of eucalyptus trees located in the eastern portion of the study area lacks the necessary characteristics to be used by monarch butterflies as autumnal and winter roost sites. Therefore, the monarch butterfly protection standards contained in CE policies 4.1 through CE 4.6 do not apply.

Policy CE 5.1 Designation of ESHAs
This policy designates native grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral habitats as ESHAs. The policy does not state whether or not these habitat types must meet the ESHA criteria contained in policy CE 1.1. The coastal sage scrub vegetation present in the project site does not meet the ESHA criteria, but this policy may still apply. *The City must determine whether this policy applies to the sage scrub vegetation present on this project site.*

Policy CE 5.3 Protection of Coastal Sage Scrub and Chaparral
This policy states that it is in addition to the provisions of Policy CE 1 (the ESHA Designations and Policy), to the effect that "to the maximum extent feasible, development shall avoid impacts to coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats" and that a 25-ft.-wide buffer area around the perimeter of the delineated habitat be restored with native species. This policy is similar to Policy 5.1 in that it does not clearly state if the policy is applicable to all coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitat regardless of their condition, size, or habitat functions, or if this policy only applies to those habitats that meet ESHA criteria contained in Policy CE 1.1. *The City must determine whether this policy applies to the sage scrub vegetation present on this project site or if this policy is only applicable to sage scrub vegetation meeting the ESHA designation criteria.*

CE 8.4 Raptor Nest Protection Policy
The policy states that development shall be designed to provide a 100-ft. buffer around active and historical nest sites for protected species of raptors when feasible. There is the potential for raptors to construct nests in the eucalyptus trees and ornamental landscape trees present in and adjacent to the study area (refer to Figure 3 for location). Performance of nesting bird surveys prior to and during construction must occur to ensure project consistency with this condition and project compliance with state and federal laws protecting raptor and migratory bird nests.

8.0 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

CEQA requires that feasible mitigation measures or alternatives be incorporated into the project description in order to avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment will occur. The actual incorporation of mitigation into the project description depends on the type of CEQA document prepared, and can consist of applicant-proposed mitigation and/or lead agency permit condition requirements. In either case, mitigation measures are required for impacts identified as significantly adverse.

The Goleta Fire Station No. 10 project analyzed in this report has the potential to cause adverse, significant, but mitigatable short-term impacts to nesting birds. In order to ensure that project impacts are reduced to less than significant levels, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

Mitigation Measure 1. Wildlife Habitat Loss
Mitigation is not required because the short- and long-term impacts, while adverse, are considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measure 2. Increased Noise and Light Wildlife Disturbance
Mitigation is not required because the short- and long-term impacts, while adverse, are considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measure 3. Nesting Bird Disturbance
The following mitigation is recommended to ensure protection of breeding birds onsite and adjacent to the project site during the site preparation (i.e., vegetation clearing and grubbing) and construction phases of the project. Vegetation removal and tree trimming shall not occur during bird nesting season (February 1–August 15). If these activities must occur during this time, pre-construction breeding bird surveys shall be performed by a qualified, City-approved biologist. Nesting bird pre-construction surveys shall occur within the area to be disturbed and extend outward 500 ft. or to the property boundary. If any occupied bird nests or cavity roosts are found, the biologist shall determine an appropriate buffer zone that considers the bird species, nest location, nest height, existing pre-construction level of disturbance in the vicinity of the nest, and proposed construction activities. A buffer ranging in size from 100 ft. for nesting passerine species to 500 ft. for nesting raptors shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright-orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary, unless a smaller buffer is considered adequate based on the factors listed above (as approved by the City of Goleta).

Mitigation Measure 4. Vegetation Removal
Mitigation is not required because the short- and long-term impacts, while adverse, are considered less than significant.

Mitigation Measure 5. Direct and Indirect Impacts to Sensitive Species
Mitigation is not required because the short- and long-term impacts to sensitive species are considered none, no impact.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

Construction of the proposed Goleta Fire Station No. 10 is not expected to result in any short- or long-term adverse, significant, and unavoidable environmental impacts to biological resources. Biological impacts identified in this report include: wildlife habitat loss, increased noise and light wildlife disturbance, nesting bird disturbance, vegetation removal, and direct and indirect impacts to sensitive wildlife species. The short- and long-term project impacts to wildlife habitat loss, vegetation removal, and increased noise and light wildlife disturbance are considered adverse, but less than significant. Potential short-term impacts to nesting birds are considered to be adverse, significant, but mitigatable. Short- and long-term project impacts to sensitive wildlife species are considered to be none, no impact.

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Attachment 1
Photographs of the Project Site

Attachment 1: Photographs of the Project Site

Photo 1. Non-native annual grassland with scattered coastal sage scrub, view facing west.

Photo 2. Proposed location of new fire station with eucalyptus woodland and non-native annual grassland understory, view facing north-east.

Photo 3. Location of disturbed non-native annual grassland and scattered coastal sage scrub in area where former gas station existed, view facing southwest.

Appendix A
CEQA Checklist for Biological Resources

Appendix A
California Environmental Quality Act
Checklist for Biological Resources

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

Appendix A (continued)
California Environmental Quality Act
Checklist for Biological Resources

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X	
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X	
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X