ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT AMENDMENT PROJECT

CITY OF CORONA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis

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February 2018
JN 163407

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The undersigned certify that the statements furnished in this report and exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and the facts, statements, and information presented is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions to the best of our knowledge and beliefs.

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Biologist
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EXHIBITS

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Section 1 Introduction

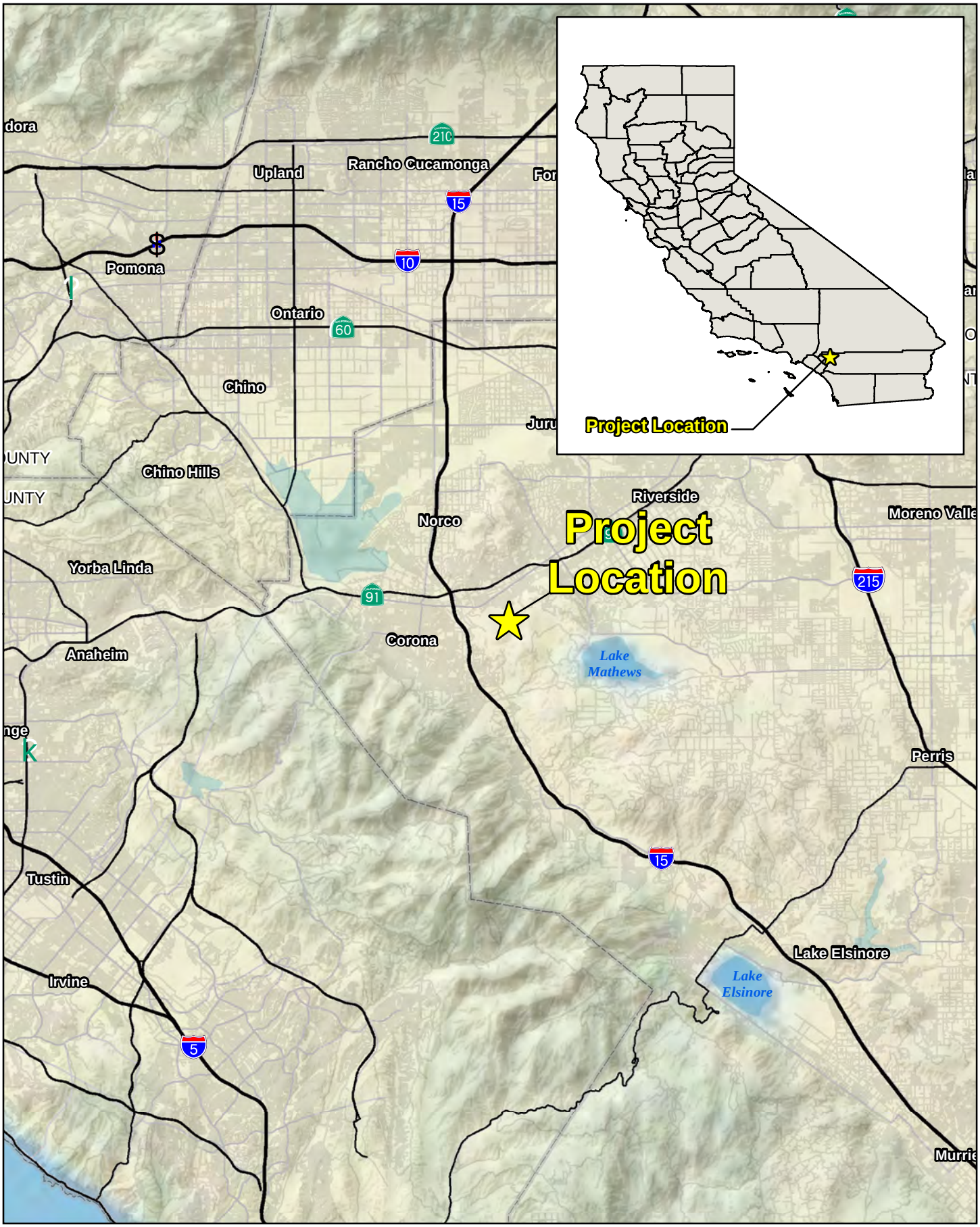
This report contains the findings of Michael Baker International's (Michael Baker) Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) consistency analysis for the All American Asphalt Amendment Project (project) located in the City of Corona, Riverside County, California. The subject project is located within the boundary of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), which was fully approved in June 2004. The MSHCP Final EIR/EIS states, *"The existing* [mineral] *extraction sites are locally important resources and would not be affected under the proposed MSHCP. The sites currently in use would not be restricted in any way. The potential for establishment of additional mineral extraction sites in the future would, however, be restricted in some ways."* (MSHCP vol. 4, Section 4.2.2, pg. 4.2-28).

The subject property was an "existing extraction site" at the time of the MSHCP's approval. The County of Riverside approved SMP 115 in 1979 and subsequently added SMP 151, and 158 to include the entire mineral extraction area. In 1990 these three permits were consolidated into one permit by the City of Corona which was amended in 1995 to include an inert construction landfill within the permit boundaries.

This MSHCP consistency analysis was conducted for the All American Asphalt on behalf of EnviroMine, Inc. All American Asphalt is not a Permittee to the MSHCP. The amendment project proposes to continue surface mining operations within the same permit boundaries and as fully analyzed in previous permits and amendments. As a mine existing prior to the MSHCP's approval, the currently approved All American Asphalt is therefore not subject to the MSHCP or any Mitigation Fee Ordinance implementing the MSHCP for its existing operations. However, the City of Corona is a Permittee to the MSHCP and is requesting that a MSHCP consistency analysis be prepared to demonstrate that the proposed project will be in compliance with the MSHCP.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The subject property is generally located east of Interstate 15, south of State Route 91, west of Lake Mathews, and north of Cajalco Road in the City of Corona, Riverside County, California (Exhibit 1, *Regional Vicinity*). The subject property is depicted on the Corona South quadrangle of the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic map series in an unsectioned area of Range 6 west, Township 3 south (Exhibit 2, *Site Vicinity*). Specifically, the subject property is located east of Temescal Wash, south of Indiana Avenue, and approximately 3 miles west of Lake Mathews (Exhibit 3, *Subject Property*).

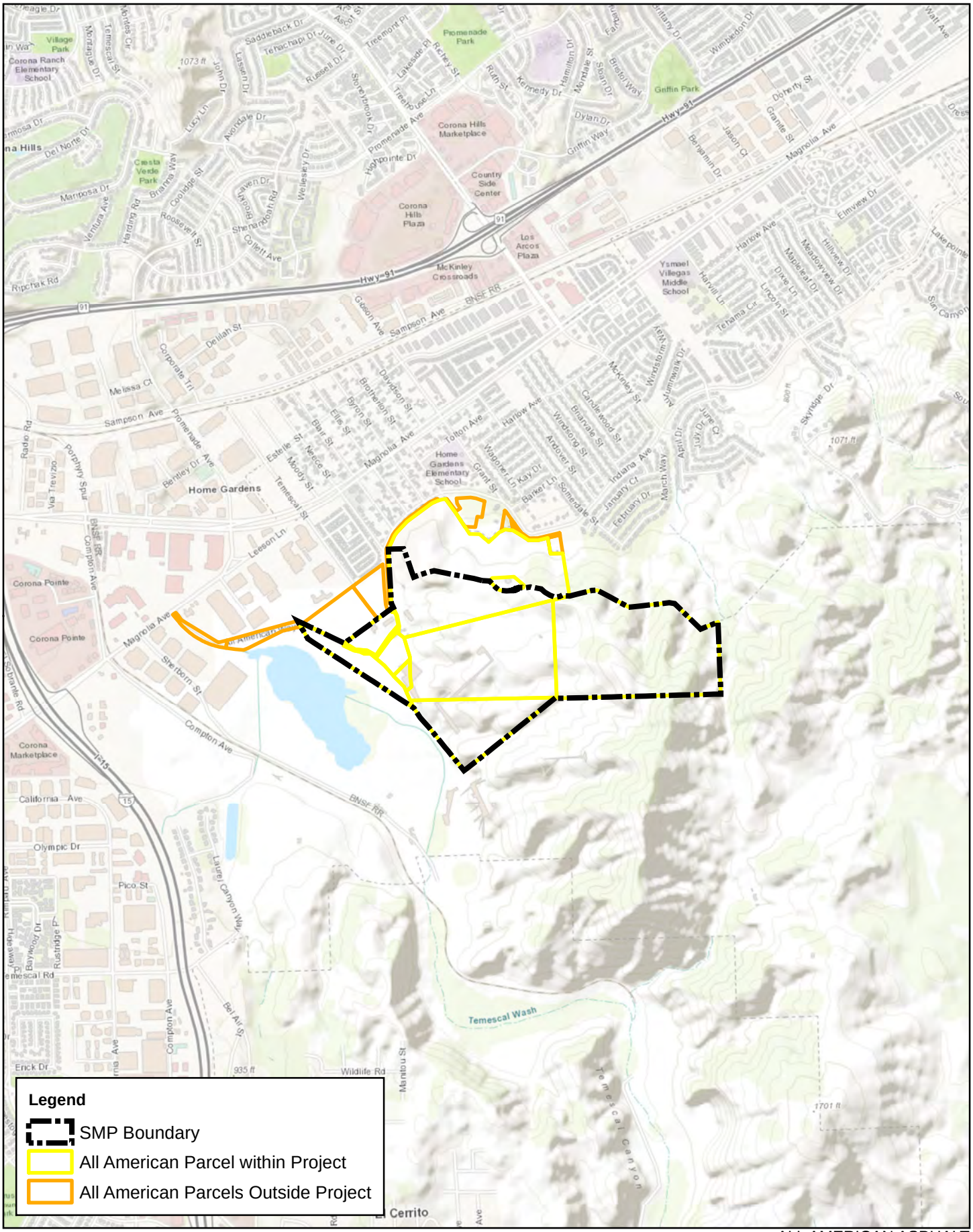


Source: ESRI Relief Map, National Highway Planning Network

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Regional Vicinity

Exhibit 1



Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Source: San Bernardino County, ESRI USA Topographic Basemap

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Site Vicinity

Exhibit 2

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Source: San Bernardino County, ESRI USA Topographic Basemap

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

Subject Property

Exhibit 3

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The All American Asphalt Corona Quarry (Subject Property) is an existing rock quarry. Operations include extraction and processing of native rock for production of asphaltic grade construction aggregates from an approximately 263-acre site in the City of Corona, Riverside County, CA.

The purpose of the proposed amendment to SMP 95-1(modified) and the associated Reclamation Plan is to:

- Extend the permit date to 2121;
- Mine beneath the existing processing plant after moving the processing plant to a backfilled area;
- Increase excavation depth to an elevation of 400 feet above mean sea level;
- Expand the excavation to areas that have been used for processing, storage, asphalt batching and equipment maintenance;
- Modify the phasing plan from 3 to 5 phases to be more compatible with site operations; and
- Reduce the SMP boundary to 263-acres to include support facilities.

Movement of the processing plant and mining beneath the current plant location would be conducted during later phases of the project. These modifications will increase total aggregate yield from 127 million tons to approximately 177 million tons. All existing reclamation standards will remain in effect; no additional acreage will be added to the mining area and no change in operational intensity is proposed.

Reclamation of the Project will be phased with mining and will return the site to open space for slope areas and industrial use for finished pads in compliance with the underlying land use designation for the property.

No other substantial changes to the permit and reclamation plan are proposed. There will be no change in traffic generation, processing capabilities or throughput. The proposal specifically does not seek to expand mining onto undisturbed areas outside of the approved permit area nor increase the annual production rates.

Table 2 summarizes the proposed changes and compares key elements of the approved permit with the revised surface mining permit and reclamation plan amendment, followed by a discussion of plan differences.

This amended plan provides several benefits, including (but not limited to):

- Developing a mining design that progresses down slope in a uniform, efficient manner, reclaiming slope areas as they become available, as opposed to the inefficient mine phasing approach currently implemented;
- Recover all economically available resource on the property. As a result, implementation of this reclamation plan will not affect future mining on the site; and
- Maintaining a construction aggregates facility adjacent to the regional highway system and markets.

Table 1: Existing and Proposed Modifications

Item	Existing	Proposed Modification	Effect
Excavation Depth	500 feet elevation	400 feet elevation	Increase excavation depth by 100 feet vertical
Final Cut Slopes	60-degree bench face w 10-foot bench every 50 vertical feet	80-degree bench face w 25-foot bench every 50 vertical feet. 0.87h:1V overall cut slope	Steeper bench faces & wider, safer benches
Total Mined	112 million tons	177 million tons	Increase reserves by 65 million tons
Permit Expiration	May 15, 2021	December 31, 2121	Extend permit expiration date to 100 years
Mine Phases	Three Phases	Five Phases	Increase phases by 2
Mine Excavation	233 acres	Decrease former excavation area by 4 acres to 229 acres	Will include batch plant and mine support areas.
SMP Boundary	298 acres	Reduce SMP boundary to 263 acres within City limits only.	All lands within one jurisdiction
Operating Hours	24	No Change	No Change
Traffic	No Restriction	No Change	No Change

Section 2 Methodology

Michael Baker conducted a literature review and records search to determine which special-status biological resources have the potential to occur on or within the general vicinity of the subject property. In addition, a field investigation of the subject property was conducted and provided information of the existing conditions on the subject property and potential for special-status biological resources to occur.

2.1 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

The subject property is located in the City of Corona (City) within the Temescal Canyon Area Plan of the MSHCP. The City is a permittee under the MSHCP and, while the project is not specifically identified as a Covered Activity under Section 7.1 of the MSHCP, public and private development that is outside of Criteria Areas and Public/Quasi-Public (P/QP) Lands is permitted under the MSHCP, subject to consistency with MSHCP policies that apply to area outside of Criteria Areas. As such, to achieve coverage, the project must be consistent with the following policies of the MSHCP:

- The policies for the protection of species associated with Riparian/Riverine areas and vernal pools as set forth in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP;
- The policies for the protection of narrow endemic plant species as set forth in Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP;
- The requirements for conducting additional surveys as set forth in Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP; and

The subject property was reviewed to determine consistency with the MSHCP. Geographic Information System (GIS) software was utilized to map the subject property in relation to MSHCP areas including criteria cells (core habitat and wildlife movement corridors) and areas proposed for conservation.

2.1.1 Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools

The MSHCP requires that an assessment be completed if impacts to riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools will occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project. According to the MSHCP, the documentation for the assessment shall include mapping and a description of the functions and values of the mapped areas with respect to the species listed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, *Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools.*

Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conducting the field investigation. The aerials were used to locate and inspect potential natural drainage features, ponded areas, or water bodies that may be considered riparian/riverine habitat and/or fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In general, surface drainage features indicated as blue-line streams on USGS maps that are observed or expected to exhibit evidence of flow are considered potential riparian/riverine habitat and are also subject to State and federal regulatory authorities.

2.1.2 Narrow Endemic Plant Species

Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, *Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species*, states that the MSHCP database does not provide sufficient detail to determine the extent of the presence/distribution of Narrow Endemic Plant Species within the MSHCP Plan Area. Additional surveys may be needed to gather information to determine the presence/absence of these species to ensure that appropriate conservation of these species occurs. Based on the Riverside County Integrated Project (RCIP) Conservation Summary Report Generator and review of the MSHCP, it was determined that the subject property is located within the designated survey area for Narrow Endemic Plant Species as depicted in Figure 6-1 within Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP.

2.1.3 Additional Survey Needs and Procedures

Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP, *Additional Survey Needs and Procedures*, states that additional surveys may be needed for certain species in order to achieve coverage for these species. The RCIP Conservation Summary Report generator was queried to determine if the MSHCP lists any survey requirements for the subject property. The RCIP Conservation Summary Report Generator identified the subject property as being located within the designated survey area for burrowing owl as depicted in Figure 6-1 within Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.

2.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines

Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP, *Guidelines Pertaining to Urban/Wildlands Interface*, is intended to address indirect effects associated with development in proximity to MSHCP Conservation Areas. The Urban/Wildlife Interface Guidelines are intended to ensure that indirect project-related impacts to the MSHCP Conservation Area, including drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasive plant species, barriers, and grading/land development, are avoided or minimized.

2.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature detailing biological resources previously observed in the vicinity of the subject property and historical land uses were reviewed to understand the extent of disturbances to the habitats on-site. Standard field guides and texts on special-status and non-special-status biological resources were reviewed for habitat requirements, as well as the following resources:

- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1994-2016);
- 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area;
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rarefind 5;
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS);
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Survey;

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species;
- Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan; and
- RCIP Conservation Summary Report.

The literature review provided a baseline from which to inventory the biological resources potentially occurring on the subject property. The CNDDB database was used, in conjunction with ArcGIS software, to locate the nearest recorded occurrences of special-status species and determine the distance from the subject property.

2.3 FIELD INVESTIGATION

Michael Baker biologists Travis J. McGill evaluated the extent and conditions of the plant communities found within the boundaries of the subject property. Plant communities identified on aerial photographs during the literature review were verified in the field by walking meandering transects through the on-site plant communities and along boundaries between plant communities. The plant communities were evaluated for their potential to support special-status plant and wildlife species. In addition, field staff identified any natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area.

2.4 JURISDICTIONAL DRAINAGES

Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conducting a field investigation in order to locate and inspect any potential natural drainage features, ponded areas, or water bodies that may be considered riparian/riverine habitat and/or fall under the jurisdiction of the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW. In general, surface drainage features indicated as blue-line streams on USGS maps that are observed or expected to exhibit evidence of flow are considered potential riparian/riverine habitat and are also subject to state and federal regulatory jurisdiction.

2.5 STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

Separate from the consistency review against the policies of the MSHCP, Riverside County established a boundary in 1996 for protecting the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), a federally endangered and state threatened species. The Stephens' kangaroo rat is protected under the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (County Ordinance No. 663.10; SKR HCP). As described in the MSHCP Implementation Agreement, a Section 10(a) Permit, and California Fish and Game Code Section 2081 Management Authorization were issued to the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA) for the Long-Term SKR HCP and was approved by the USFWS and CDFW in August 1990 (RCHCA 1996). Relevant terms of the SKR HCP have been incorporated into the MSHCP and its Implementation Agreement. The SKR HCP will continue to be implemented as a separate HCP; however, to provide the greatest conservation for the largest number of Covered Species, the Core Reserves established by the SKR HCP are managed as part of the MSHCP Conservation Area consistent with the SKR HCP. Actions shall not be taken as part of the implementation of the SKR HCP that will significantly affect other Covered Species. Take of Stephens' kangaroo rat outside of the boundaries but within the MSHCP area is authorized under the MSHCP and the associated permits.

The undisturbed eastern portion of the subject property, east of the existing mining operations is located within the Mitigation Fee Area of the SKR HCP.

Section 3 Existing Conditions

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

On-site surface elevation ranges from approximately 500 feet to 1,200 feet above mean sea level. The eastern portion of the subject property consists of steep terrain associated with the rolling hills. According to the Custom Soil Resource Report, the subject property is underlain by the following soil units: Cieneba sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes - eroded (ChF2), Cieneba rocky sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent - eroded (CkF2), Cortina gravelly sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (CpA), Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes (HcC), Temescal rocky loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes - eroded (TbF2), Vista coarse sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes - eroded (VsD2), and Vista coarse sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent - eroded (VsF2).

3.2 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The subject property is bordered by residential developments (Homes Gardens) to the north, an existing mining operation to the south, Temescal Wash to the west, and undeveloped hills to the east.

3.3 SITE CONDITIONS

The western portion of the subject property consists of existing mining operation that has been excavated into the hillside, while the eastern portion of the property consists of undisturbed, steep terrain associated with the hills on the eastern portion of the subject property. The western portion of the subject property has been heavy disturbed from mining operations, which has eliminated natural plant communities. The eastern, undisturbed portion of the subject property primarily supports a non-native grassland plant community with patches of Riversdean sage scrub plant species on steep slopes. Common plant species observed include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis*), ripgut (*Bromus diandrus*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

Section 4 MSHCP Consistency Analysis

The subject property is located within Subunit 3 – Temescal Wash West of the Temescal Canyon Area Plan of the MSHCP. The MSHCP Final EIR/EIS states, *"The existing* [mineral] *extraction sites are locally important resources and would not be affected under the proposed MSHCP. The sites currently in use would not be restricted in any way. The potential for establishment of additional mineral extraction sites in the future would, however, be restricted in some ways."* (MSHCP vol. 4, Section 4.2.2, pg. 4.2-28).

The western portion of the subject property is located within portions of Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924 of the MSHCP (Exhibit 4, *MSHCP Conservation Areas*). Based on the RCIP Conservation Summary Report Generator and review of the MSHCP, it was determined that the subject property is located within the designated survey area for Narrow Endemic Plant Species as depicted in Figure 6-1 in Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, and burrowing owl as depicted in Figure 6-4 within Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP. Refer to Section 4.2 and 4.3, respectively, for a detailed analysis of the suitability of the on-site habitat and potential for Narrow Endemic Plant Species, and burrowing owl to occur on the subject property.

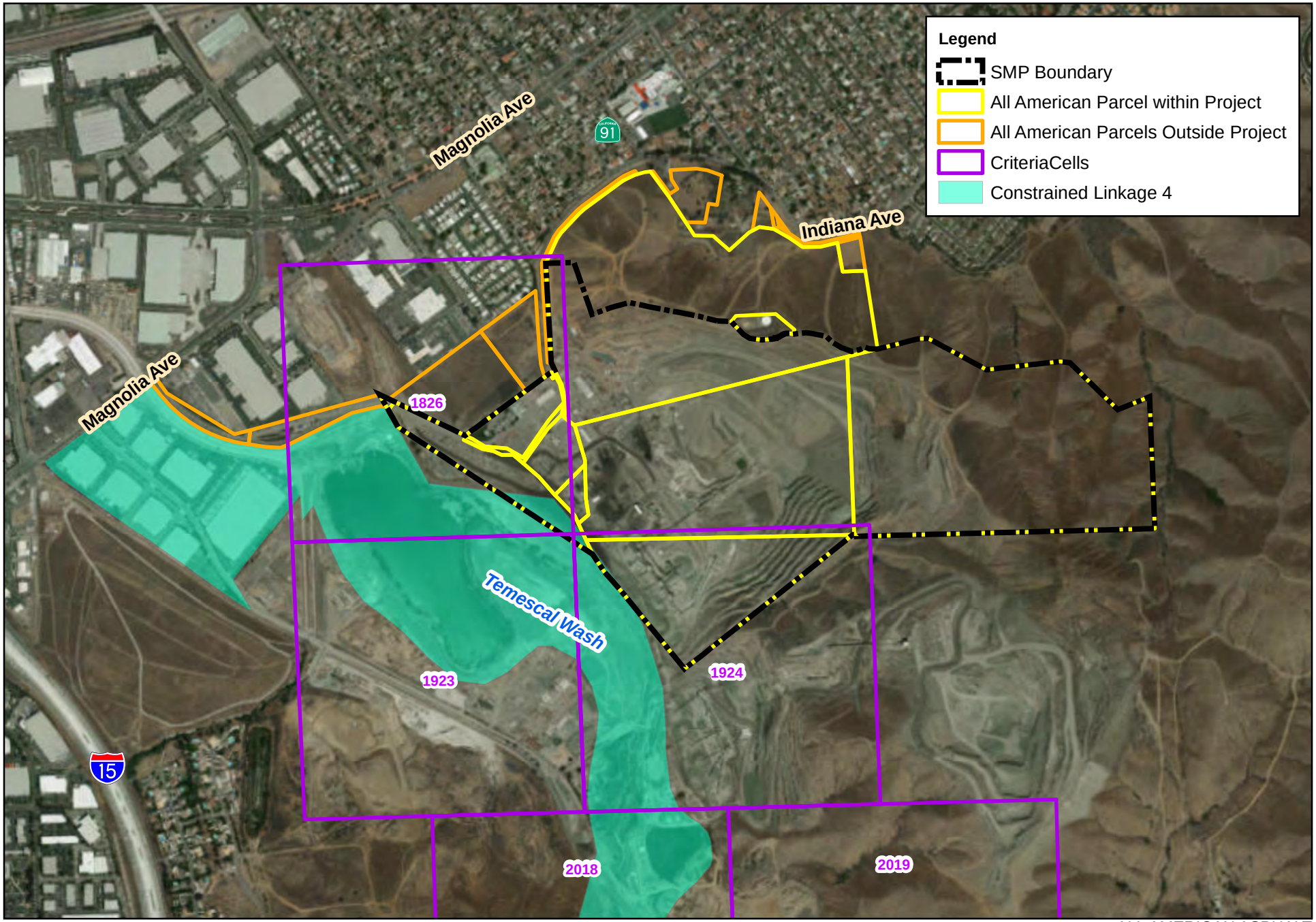
4.1 RIPARIAN/RIVERINE AREAS AND VERNAL POOLS

4.1.1 Riparian/Riverine Areas

As defined under Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, *Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools*, riparian/riverine areas are areas dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent plants, or emergent mosses and lichens which occur close to or are dependent upon nearby freshwater, or areas with freshwater flowing during all or a portion of the year. Conservation of these areas is intended to protect habitat that is essential to a number of listed or special-status water-dependent fish, amphibian, avian, and plant species. Any alteration or loss of riparian/riverine habitat from development of a Project will require the preparation of a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) analysis to ensure the replacement of any lost functions and values of habitats in regards to the listed species. This assessment is independent from considerations given to waters of the United States and waters of the State under the Clean Water Act (CWA), the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and CDFW jurisdictional streamed under the California Fish and Game Code.

Several ephemeral drainage features occur on the eastern portion of the subject property at the bottom of the canyon/ravine slopes that are separated from the western portion of the subject property by a mountain ridge. These drainage features follow onsite topography and flow southwest to northeast before terminating at the northern boundary of the subject property at the residential development. The easternmost drainages flow into a detention basin just south of the existing residential developments before flowing into a concrete lined channel that eventually flows north into the Arlington Valley Channel. Arlington Valley Channel then flows east to west into Temescal Wash.

The drainage features on the eastern portion (expansion area) of the subject property have the potential to qualify as waters of the United States and fall under the jurisdiction of Corps, Regional Board, and/or CDFW, and qualify as riparian/riverine habitat as defined under the Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP.



Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Source: San Bernardino County, ESRI USA Topographic Basemap

ALL AMERICAN ASPHALT
WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MSHCP CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

MSHCP Conservation Area

Exhibit 4

In accordance with the 1990 Negative Declaration, it was noted that the drainage features within the proposed expansion area (eastern portion of the site) are located within a separate drainage system from where All American Asphalt is currently permitted. The drainages within the expansion area flow north into two unnamed drainage features that eventually flow north into the community of Home Gardens, while the current mining operations on the subject property are self-contained and flow west towards Temescal Wash.

The approved mitigation measures outlined in the Negative Declaration state that the applicant shall be required to ensure that all drainage within the expansion area is funneled into the current mining site once mineral extraction occurs on the eastern portion of the site. In addition, to ensure that there is no increase in sediment production entering the natural drainage system feeding north into the Home Gardens area, the applicant shall install all drainage facilities in accordance with the project phasing plan.

The proposed amendment project will stay on the south/west side of the mountain ridge and is not expected to have any impacts to the eastern portion of the site.

4.1.2 Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are seasonally inundated, ponded areas that only form in regions where specialized soil and climatic conditions exist. During fall and winter rains typical of Mediterranean climates, water collects in shallow depressions where downward percolation of water is prevented by the presence of a hard pan or clay pan layer (duripan) below the soil surface. Later in the spring when rains decrease and the weather warms, the water evaporates and the pools generally disappear by May. The shallow depressions remain relatively dry until late fall and early winter with the advent of greater precipitation and cooler temperatures. Vernal pools provide unusual "flood and drought" habitat conditions to which certain plant and wildlife species have specifically adapted as well as invertebrate species such as fairy shrimp.

One of the factors for determining the suitability of the habitat for fairy shrimp would be demonstrable evidence of seasonal ponding in an area of topographic depression that is not subject to flowing waters. These astatic pools are typically characterized as vernal pools. More specifically, vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas without a continual source of water. They have wetland indicators of all 3 parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season but normally lack wetland indicators of hydrology and/or vegetation during the drier portion of the growing season. Obligate hydrophytes and facultative wetlands plant species are normally dominant during the wetter portion of the growing season. The determination that an area exhibits vernal pool characteristics and the definition of the watershed supporting vernal pool hydrology is made on a case-by-case basis. Such determinations should be considered the length of time the areas exhibits upland and wetland characteristics and the manner in which the area fits into the overall ecological system as a wetland. The seasonal hydrology of vernal pools provides for a unique environment, which supports plants and invertebrates specifically adapted to a regime of winter inundation, followed by an extended period when the pool soils are dry.

The MSHCP lists two general classes of soils known to be associated with special-status plant species; clay soils and Traver-Domino Willow association soils. The specific clay soils known to be associated with special-status species within the MSHCP plan area include Bosanko, Auld, Altamont, and Porterville series

soils, whereas Traver-Domino Willows association includes saline-alkali soils largely located along floodplain areas of the San Jacinto River and Salt Creek. Without the appropriate soils to create the impermeable restrictive layer, none of the special-status species associated with vernal pools can occur on the subject property. None of these soils occur on the subject property.

A review of recent and historic aerial photographs (1994-2016) of the subject property and its immediate vicinity did not provide visual evidence of an astatic or vernal pool conditions on or in the vicinity of the subject property. No ponding was observed on-site, further supporting the fact that the drainage patterns currently occurring on the subject property do not follow hydrologic regime needed for vernal pools. Further, the steep terrain associated with the hillsides does not provide areas for water to pond to form a vernal pool. From this review of historic aerial photographs and observations during the field investigations, it can be concluded that there is no indication of vernal pools or suitable fairy shrimp habitat occurring on the subject property. Further, no special-status plant and wildlife species associated with vernal pools were observed.

4.2 NARROW ENDEMIC PLANT SPECIES

Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, *Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species*, states that the MSHCP database does not provide sufficient detail to determine the extent of the presence/distribution of Narrow Endemic Plant Species within the MSHCP Plan Area. Additional surveys may be needed to gather information to determine the presence/absence of these species to ensure that appropriate conservation of these species occurs.

Based on the RCIP Resource Conservation Summary Report and a review of Figure 6-1 within Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, it was determined that the subject property is located within the designated survey area for Narrow Endemic Plant Species. Specifically, the subject property is located within the designated survey area for Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*) and many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*).

4.2.1 Munz's Onion

Munz's onion is a bulb-forming perennial herb that grows in wet, clay soils within grassland, woodland, and chaparral habitats. It forms small light-colored flowers and blooms from March to May. Munz's onion is well adapted to periodic drought and can survive dry years underground as a bulb. The subject property does not contain chaparral, foothill woodland, or pinyon-juniper woodland habitats needed for this species. While grasslands are present on the eastern portion of the subject property, the clays soils needed to support this species are not present. Munz's onion is presumed absent from the subject property and no additional surveys are recommended.

4.2.2 Many-stemmed Dudleya

Many-stemmed dudleya is a perennial herb that can be found in clay soils in the Auld, Altamont, Bosanko, Claypit, and Porterville soil series within chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland habitats. Based on the poor conditions of the habitat on-site and the lack of suitable soil types for this species, it was determined that the subject property does not provide suitable habitat for this species. The subject property lacks the appropriate soil types that this species occurs in, and there are no known populations on or within

the immediate vicinity of the subject property. Many-stemmed dudleya is presumed absent from the subject property and no additional surveys are recommended.

4.3 ADDITIONAL SURVEY NEEDS AND PROCEDURES

In accordance with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP, *Additional Survey Needs and Procedures*, additional surveys may be needed for certain species in order to achieve coverage for these species. Based on the RCIP Resource Conservation Summary Report and a review of the MSHCP, it was determined that the subject property is located within the designated burrowing owl survey area.

4.3.1 Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is currently designated as a California Species of Special Concern. The burrowing owl is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with level to gently-sloping areas characterized by open vegetation and bare ground. The western burrowing owl (*A.c. hypugaea*), which occurs throughout the western United States including California, rarely digs its own burrows and is instead dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (i.e., California ground squirrels [*Otospermophilus beecheyi*], coyotes [*Canis latrans*], and badgers [*Taxidea taxus*]) whose burrows are often used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of colonial mammal burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. They also require low growth or open vegetation allowing line-of-sight observation of the surrounding habitat to forage and watch for predators. In California, the burrowing owl breeding season extends from the beginning of February through the end of August.

Under the MSHCP burrowing owl is considered an adequately conserved covered species that may still require focused surveys in certain areas as designated in Figure 6-4 of the MSHCP. The western portion of the subject property consist of existing mining operations and mining equipment and does not provide suitable habitat for burrowing owls. The eastern portion of the subject property consists of vacant, undeveloped land that primarily supports a non-native grassland plant community that is bordered by existing mining operations to the west and undeveloped rolling hills to the east. The eastern portion of the subject property is vegetated with a variety of low-growing, early successional plant species that provides open foraging habitat and allows for line-of-sight observation favored by burrowing owl. Although unlikely to occur in the steep terrain on the eastern portion of the subject property, it was determined that burrowing owl has a low to moderate potential to occur on the eastern portion of the subject property.

Although focused surveys are not recommended, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey is recommended to be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities on the eastern portion of the subject property during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31) to ensure that burrowing owls remain absent from the subject property and impacts do not occur to any burrowing owls that may be located on or within 500 feet of the development footprint. In accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area*, a pre-

construction clearance survey is recommended to be conducted no more than 30 days prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities during the breeding season.

4.4 URBAN/WILDLANDS INTERFACE GUIDELINES

According to Section 6.1.4 the MSHCP, *Guidelines Pertaining to Urban/Wildlands Interface*, this section is intended to address indirect effects associated with development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area (MSHCP, p 6-42). The western portion of the subject property is located within portions of Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924. These three Criteria Cells contribute to the assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 which extends along Temescal Wash. The Urban/Wildlife Interface Guidelines, as discussed below, will be incorporated into the project to ensure that the project is consistent with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP and to ensure indirect project-related impacts as a result of, toxics, lighting, noise, invasive plant species, barriers, and grading/land development, are avoided or minimized, particularly on the western portion of the site the is actively in use.

4.4.1 Toxics

In the event that on-site activities require the use of chemicals or generate bioproducts that are potentially toxic or may adversely affect wildlife species, habitat, or water quality, according to the MSHCP, measures shall be incorporated to ensure that application of such chemicals does not result in discharge to adjacent MSHCP Conservation Areas. To address these potential short-term/temporary impacts, the project is required to stage construction vehicles and equipment outside of the limits of jurisdictional features and riparian/riverine habitat, and MSHCP Conservation Areas to the maximum feasible distance.

4.4.2 Lighting

The Project does not propose any lighting. However, if lighting is required, sources should be designed with internal baffles to direct the lighting towards the ground and the developed areas and have a zero-side angle cut off to the horizon. If lighting is required, all lighting will be consistent with Riverside County's Light Pollution Ordinance (Ordinance No. 655).

4.4.3 Noise

Construction related noise will be mitigated to be consistent with the Cities' Noise Ordinances by requiring construction equipment to be tuned and equipped with mufflers. Under the MSHCP, wildlife within adjacent MSHCP Conservation Areas should not be subject to noise that would exceed residential noise standards.

4.4.4 Invasive Plant Species

No new landscaping is proposed in association with the project.

4.4.5 Barriers

Proposed land uses adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers (e.g., native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls, signage and/or other appropriate mechanisms), to minimize

unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespass or dumping in the MSHCP Conservation Area. To ensure construction activities stay within the designated Project footprint, the Project boundaries shall be clearly marked on project plans, and a silt fence shall be installed, demarcating the Project footprint, to ensure no impacts to MSHCP Conservation Areas and/or jurisdictional features. Since the western portion of the subject property is heavily disturbed, no additional barriers, other than what is already installed, will be needed to separate the project from adjacent MSHCP Conservation Areas.

4.4.6 Grading/Land Development

Manufactured slopes associated with proposed project shall not extend into the MSHCP Conservation Area. Based on preliminary project plans, no manufactured slopes will be constructed within the MSHCP Conservation Area. Should manufactured slopes be necessary, they will be kept within the boundaries of the development footprint and not encroach into the open space/MSHCP Conservation Area or otherwise into the area of targeted conservation.

4.5 ADDITIONAL MSHCP CONSIDERATIONS

4.5.1 Nesting Birds

Vegetation within and surrounding the subject property has the potential to provide refuge cover from predators, perching sites and favorable conditions for avian nesting that could be impacted by construction activities associated with the project. Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.3, 3511, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). In order to protect migratory bird species, a nesting bird clearance survey should be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season. Consequently, if avian nesting behaviors are disrupted, such as nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort, it is considered "take" and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

If ground disturbing activities occur during the breeding season (February 1st and August 31st), a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a 300-foot buffer around the active nest. For listed and raptor species, this buffer is expanded to 500 feet. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.

Section 5 Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) Review

5.1 THE HANS PROCESS

Proposed developments within a Criteria Cells are subject to review under the HANS process under Section 6.1.1 of the MSHCP. Project applicants whose site's fall within Criteria Areas are required to file a habitat assessment of their subject property to determine if all or part of the property is necessary for inclusion in any MSHCP Conservation Areas. If it is determined by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority and/or the Joint Project Review committee, the County, Cities, or various State and Federal Agencies that all or part of the property is needed for inclusion in the MSHCP Conservation Area, the property owner will enter into negotiations with such agencies to determine the extent of development allowed within the subject property that will not significantly impact the function of the conservation areas in question.

However, as previously stated, the proposed project is an amendment to an existing project (existing extraction site[1]) that was in operation prior to the implementation of the MSHCP. Since no additional acreage will be added to the mining area and no change in operational intensity is proposed by the amendment, the project and will not result in any new impacts to biological resources and a HANS review will not be required.

5.2 THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO THE MSHCP CONSERVATION CRITERIA

Exhibit 4, *MSHCP Conservation Areas*, shows the location of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 and Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924 in relation to the subject property. Conservation within this Cell is planned as needed for the assemblage of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 which extends along Temescal Wash.

5.2.1 Proposed Constrained Linkage 4

Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 consists of the portion of Temescal Wash extending from Indiana Avenue on the northern boundary of the subject property to El Cerrito Road approximately 1.5 miles south of the subject property. This Linkage is constrained by existing development in the City of Corona and provides habitat for wetland species, Narrow Endemic Plant Species, and wildlife movement connecting to Lake Mathews/Estell Mountain and areas upstream, along Temescal Wash. Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 provides habitat for the following species: Parry's spine flower (*Chorizanthe parryi var. parryi*), peninsular spine flower (*Chorizanthe leptotheca*), smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens ssp. laevis*), least Bell's vireo

[1] The MSHCP Final EIR/EIS states, *"The existing* [mineral] *extraction sites are locally important resources and would not be affected under the proposed MSHCP. The sites currently in use would not be restricted in any way. The potential for establishment of additional mineral extraction sites in the future would, however, be restricted in some ways."* (MSHCP vol. 4, Section 4.2.2, pg. 4.2-28).

(*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Maintenance of habitat quality and floodplain process along Temescal Wash are important for the aforementioned species. In addition, planning species associated within this Linkage include yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*), Munz's onion, long-spined spine flower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides var. longispina*), and many stemmed dudleya

5.2.2 Criteria Cell 1826

Cell 1826 is an independent Cell that is not affiliated with any Cell Group. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1826 will contribute to the assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4, with an emphasis on water associated with Temescal Wash. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1826 will range from 15 to 25 percent of the Cell, focusing on the southern portion of the Cell where Temescal Wash is located.

5.2.3 Criteria Cell 1923

Cell 1923 is an independent Cell that is not affiliated with any Cell Group. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1923 will contribute to the assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4, with an emphasis on water and riparian habitats associated with Temescal Wash. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1923 will range from 10 to 20 percent of the Cell, focusing on its northern and eastern portions of the Cell where Temescal Wash is located.

5.2.4 Criteria Cell 1924

Cell 1924 is an independent Cell that is not affiliated with any Cell Group. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1924 will contribute to the assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4, with an emphasis on riparian scrub, woodland, and forest habitats associated with Temescal Wash. Conservation within Criteria Cell 1924 will range from 5 to 15 percent of the Cell, focusing on the western portion of the Cell where Temescal Wash is located.

5.3 ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Conservation within Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924 will contribute to assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4, focusing on areas associated with Temescal Wash. Existing mining operations are located outside of the areas proposed from conservation with Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924 on the western portion of the subject property. Based on the graphic depiction shown in Exhibit 4, the proposed project amendment will not include the addition of any new mining areas and no change in operational intensity will occur. As a result, the proposed project will not impact any MSHCP Conservation Areas or Criteria Cells and no impacts to Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 will occur. A HANS review will not be required for the project.

Section 6 Conclusion

The western portion of the subject property consists of existing mining operation that has been excavated into the hillside, while the eastern portion of the property consists of undisturbed, steep terrain associated with the hills on the eastern portion of the subject property. The western portion of the subject property has been heavy disturbed from mining operations, which has eliminated natural plant communities. The eastern, undisturbed portion of the subject property primarily supports a non-native grassland plant community with patches of Riversdean sage scrub plant species.

Riparian/Riverine Areas

Several ephemeral drainage features occur on the eastern portion of the subject property at the bottom of the canyon/ravine slopes that are separated from the western portion of the subject property by a mountain ridge. These drainage features on the eastern portion (expansion area) of the subject property have the potential to qualify as waters of the United States and fall under the jurisdiction of Corps, Regional Board, and/or CDFW, and qualify as riparian/riverine habitat as defined under the Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP.

However, in accordance with the 1990 Negative Declaration, it was noted that the drainage features within the proposed expansion area (eastern portion of the site) are located within a separate drainage system from where All American Asphalt is currently permitted. The approved mitigation measures outlined in the Negative Declaration state that the applicant shall be required to ensure that all drainage within the expansion area is funneled into the current mining site once mineral extraction occurs on the eastern portion of the site, and ensure there is no increase in sediment production entering the natural drainage system feeding north into the Home Gardens area. The proposed amendment project will stay on the south/west side of the mountain ridge and is not expected to have any impacts to the eastern portion of the site.

Narrow Endemic Plant Species

Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, *Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species*, states that the MSHCP database does not provide sufficient detail to determine the extent of the presence/distribution of Narrow Endemic Plant Species within the MSHCP Plan Area. Based on the site investigation, it was determined that the subject property does not provide suitable habitat for listed Narrow Endemic Plant Species. No further surveys are recommended.

Nesting Birds

Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.3, 3511, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs). If ground disturbing activities occur during the breeding season (February 1st and August 31st), a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days prior to the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a 300-foot buffer around the active nest. For listed and raptor species, this buffer is expanded to 500 feet. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to

monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.

Burrowing Owl

Although focused surveys are not recommended, a pre-construction burrowing owl clearance survey is recommended to be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities on the eastern portion of the subject property during the breeding season (February 1 to August 31) to ensure that burrowing owls remain absent from the subject property and impacts do not occur to any burrowing owls that may be located on or within 500 feet of the development footprint. In accordance with the *Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Area*, a pre-construction clearance survey is recommended to be conducted no more than 30 days prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities during the breeding season.

Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines

The western portion of the subject property is located within portions of Criteria Cells 1826, 1923, and 1924. These three Criteria Cells contribute to the assembly of Proposed Constrained Linkage 4 which extends along Temescal Wash. However, existing mining operations and proposed expansion are located outside of the area proposed for conservation. Guidelines presented in Section 4.4 of this report will be implemented to minimize edge effects to the Conservation Area. No further actions are recommended.

Section 7 References

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