Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

FINAL
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

State Clearinghouse Number

2026010310

March 2026

Lead Agency:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

Prepared By:

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, CA 95677

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NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO:	FROM:
Office of Planning and Research 1400 10th Street Sacramento, CA 95814	California Department of Parks and Recreation One Capitol Mall, Suite 410 Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

PROJECT TITLE: Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail project

State Clearinghouse Number	Contact Person	Telephone Number
2026010310	Jim Doran	(831) 601-1205

Project Approval

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) adopted the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and approved the Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project (Project) on March 25, 2026.

Project Location

The 30.71-acre Project Site is located within Garrapata SP, Monterey County, and is located approximately 4 driving miles south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea on Highway 1.

Most of Garrapata SP is situated on the east side of Highway 1, rising steeply from the coastal bluffs and featuring trails through scrub and grassland covered hillsides and redwood-filled canyons. Parking for the SP is limited to the shoulders along Highway 1 with a small turnout on the east side that can accommodate approximately 10-15 cars. Trail access on the east side of the park includes the Rocky Ridge Trail and Soberanes Canyon Trail which connect near the east end of Soberanes Canyon and create a loop trail totaling approximately 4.25 miles.

Summary Project Description

The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail (Project) is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

State Parks, as the Lead Agency, has approved the above-described Project and has made the following determinations:

There is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment;

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project was prepared. The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted by State Parks which is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and record of Project approval may be examined at the following website:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=981

Mitigation measures were required to be made a condition of approval of the proposed Project;

A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not required to be adopted for the proposed Project; and

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan was adopted for the proposed Project.

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration including comments and responses and record of Project approval is available to the general public at:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=981

DocuSigned by:
Daniel Shaw
2A56718F711A4DF...

District Superintendent

3/24/2026

Date

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

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CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACRC	Amador Central Railroad Corporation
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
ARD	Aquatic Resources Delineation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Ione Water Treatment Plant Reliability Capacity and Backwash Piping Project
RRC	Red Rock Canyon
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
TCR	Tribal cultural resource
Traffic Plan	construction traffic management plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VELB	Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
GARRAPATA STATE PARK ROCKY RIDGE TRAIL PROJECT

Summary

Lead Agency: California Department of Parks and Recreation

Project Location:

The 30.71-acre Project Site is located within Garrapata SP, Monterey County, and is located approximately 4 driving miles south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea on Highway 1.

Most of Garrapata SP is situated on the east side of Highway 1, rising steeply from the coastal bluffs and featuring trails through scrub and grassland covered hillsides and redwood-filled canyons. Parking for the SP is limited to the shoulders along Highway 1 with a small turnout on the east side that can accommodate approximately 10-15 cars. Trail access on the east side of the park includes the Rocky Ridge Trail and Soberanes Canyon Trail which connect near the east end of Soberanes Canyon and create a loop trail totaling approximately 4.25 miles.

Summary Project Description:

The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail (Project) is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

Finding:

Based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) finds that there would not be a significant effect on the environment because the mitigation measures described herein would be incorporated as part of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

BIO-1: **Special-Status Plant Species.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- The applicant shall perform pre-construction special-status plant surveys for portions of the Biological Study Area (BSA) that were not previously surveyed (due to inaccessibility and safety) according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols (CDFW 2018; CNPS 2001; USFWS 2000). Surveys shall be conducted throughout the unsurveyed portions of the Project footprint, to address potential direct and indirect impacts of the Project. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. To the extent feasible, surveys will be timed according to the identifiable period for special status species and known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm target species are evident and identifiable at the time of the survey.
- If no special-status plants are found, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.
- If special-status plants are identified within the survey areas, mitigation measures in MM BIO-2 shall be implemented and they would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

BIO-2: **Hutchinson's Larkspur and other Special-Status Species.** To avoid or minimize impacts to Hutchinson's larkspur and other special-status species, the following measures shall be incorporated**:**

- The Project impact limits shall be clearly demarcated prior to construction and all workers shall be made aware of the impact limits and avoided areas. No work shall occur outside of the Project impact limits. All vehicles and equipment shall be restricted to the Project impact limits and/or existing designated access roads and staging areas.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Hutchinson's larkspur prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas. Avoidance zones shall include the extent of special-status plants plus a 10-foot buffer and shall be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist or biological monitor shall be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- The Rocky Ridge Trail re-route or trail decommission activities may be adjusted to maximize avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur occurring in the BSA. If avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur is not feasible, DPR will consult with CDFW to develop appropriate measures to reduce impacts to the population to the extent feasible. These measures may include restoration or permanent preservation of habitat for

special-status plant species or translocation (via seed collection and/or transplantation) from planned impact areas to planned decommissioned trails (or other restoration areas) within Garrapata SP that would be monitored for survival.

- Clothing, vehicles, and equipment (including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks) should be cleaned prior to entering the Project Site, and materials used for the Project (such as fill dirt or erosion control materials) should be from certified sources to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.

BIO-3: **Special Status Bumble Bees.** To avoid or minimize impacts to special status bumble bees, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee is no longer Candidate or formally Listed species under the California Endangered Species Act (ESA) at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures for non-listed species are proposed.
- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee are legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to begin, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California ESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023a) the season immediately prior to Project implementation. A minimum of three special-status bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted at 2- to 4-week intervals during the colony active period (April through August) when special-status bumble bees are most likely to be detected. Non-lethal surveys shall be completed by a biologist who either holds a Memorandum of Understanding to capture and handle Crotch's and/or western bumble bee (if netting and chilling protocol is to be utilized), or by a CDFW-approved biologist who is experienced in identifying native bumble bee species (if surveys are restricted to visual surveys that will provide high-resolution photo documentation for species verification). The surveyor shall walk through all areas of suitable habitat focusing on areas with floral resources. Surveys shall be completed at a minimum of one person-hour of searching per 3 acres of suitable habitat during suitable weather conditions (sustained winds less than 8 miles per hour, mostly sunny to full sun, temperatures between 65° and 90°F) at an appropriate time of day for detection (at least 1 hour after sunrise and at least 2 hours before sunset, though ideally between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.).
- If Crotch's or western bumble bees are detected, CDFW shall be notified by the designated biologist as further coordination may be required to avoid or mitigate certain impacts. At a minimum, two nesting surveys shall be conducted with focus on detecting active nesting colonies within 1 week and the final survey within 24-hours prior to ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the flight season (February through October). If an active Crotch's or western bumble bee nest is detected, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer zone (including foraging resources and flight corridors essential for supporting the colony) shall be established around the nest

to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take and the designated biologist shall coordinate with CDFW to determine if an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California ESA will be required. Nest avoidance buffers may be removed at the completion of the flight season and/or once the qualified biologist deems the nesting colony is no longer active. If no nests are found but the species is present, a full-time qualified biological monitor shall be present during vegetation or ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the queen flight period (February through March), colony active period (March through September), and/or gyne flight period (September through October). Because bumble bees move nest sites each year, two preconstruction nesting surveys shall be required during each subsequent year of construction, regardless of the previous year's findings, whenever vegetation and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the flight season if nesting and foraging habitat is still present or has re-established.

BIO-4: **Smith's Blue Butterfly.** To avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- Project implementation shall avoid or reduce construction activities where sea cliff buckwheat plants occur during the butterfly's flight season, mid-June to early September, so as to minimize disruptions to butterfly behavior.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Smith's blue butterfly (consisting of host plants) prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas.
- Project design shall minimize impacts to or removal of sea-cliff buckwheat, by minimizing project impacts to the minimum necessary for Project implementation and making adjustments to the trail alignment during construction, where feasible. If sea cliff buckwheat plants are cut or removed for trail construction/decommission, the cut material shall be placed on/near other live buckwheat plants to allow butterflies, if present, to relocate to live plants. DPR will have an appropriate person survey the work area to identify sea cliff buckwheat.
- Implement BMPs for all Project activities.
- Consult with USFWS to ensure take coverage is acquired and determine if additional appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly are required. Minimization measures would occur within the framework of a biological opinion or Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA). Section 7 or 10 of the Federal ESA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate required minimization measures to compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly impacts. Additional measures to avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

BIO-5: **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct assessment-level surveys for portions of Soberanes Creek within 100 feet of the proposed Project area (BSA) to determine whether FYLF occupy habitats within or surrounding the site.
- If surveys identify FYLF or FYLF habitat, consult with USFWS to determine appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to FYLF. Mitigation would have to occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate and required mitigation for FYLF impacts. Measures may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

BIO-6: **California Red-Legged Frog.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Conduct visual surveys for California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) in Project areas within 300 feet of Soberanes Creek no more than 48 hours prior to disturbance for new trail construction. If CRLF are observed in the work site, a USFWS-approved biologist shall capture and relocate the frogs to other suitable habitat up- or downstream of the work area. The USFWS-approved biologist shall monitor the initial ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal in work areas adjacent to Soberanes Creek.
- Potential indirect impacts to CRLF shall be avoided or minimized through Project design, where feasible, and implementation of construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to protect aquatic habitats (e.g., erosion control measures).

BIO-7: **Coast Range Newt.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Where habitat for Coast Range newt is identified within the Project area, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and construction). If Coast Range newts are found during a survey, newts shall be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site.
- Where habitat for Coast Range newt habitat is identified, no monofilament plastic mesh or line shall be used for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment during construction. The monitor shall inspect erosion control materials daily for entrapped Coast Range newt.

BIO-8: **Northern California Legless Lizard.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Immediately prior to any ground disturbing activity within suitable habitat for the species, the biologist shall be given enough time to manually rake the soil in suitable habitat to locate any lizards. The biologist shall also check under any natural or artificial cover objects within suitable habitat.
- A qualified biologist shall monitor the initial ground stripping and grading of the development area for legless lizards. If any legless lizards are observed during the work, the biologist shall capture the lizards by hand or net, place the individuals in a bucket with sand, and relocate the individuals to an adjacent area (within 100 feet) of suitable habitat outside the construction zone.

BIO-9: **Blainville's Horned Lizard.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Blainville's horned lizard within all suitable habitat in the Project work area 72 hours prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. Any individuals discovered in the Project work area immediately prior to or during Project activities shall be allowed to move out of the work area of their own volition. If this is not feasible, they shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet from the Project work area where they were found.

BIO-10: **Nesting Birds.** If construction begins during February 1 to September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey in the BSA and a 100-foot buffer around the Project within 14 days prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established in coordination with CDFW until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise no longer occupied.

BIO-11: Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures. The following measures shall be implemented:

- The Project shall avoid aquatic resources to the extent feasible. Aquatic resources located within 50 feet of the Project footprint will be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be clearly demarcated with orange construction fencing or other visible barrier, and no Project-related activities shall be permitted within the delineated area.
- To minimize potential indirect effects, the applicant shall prepare and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to avoid and minimize erosion and runoff to wetlands and other waters that are to remain within or adjacent to the Project Site.
- Prior to the start of construction activities, CDPR will obtain all necessary regulatory permits for this Project. These permits are expected to include a CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB, a CWA Section 402 NPDES Compliance Permit from the SWRCB, a Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, from CDFW, and a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The Project shall implement all BMPs and mitigation measures identified in the issues permits.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) including the Responses to Comments and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project. It has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resource Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) as amended. This Final IS/MND and Responses to Comments document supplements and updates the Draft IS/MND released for public review on January 13, 2026.

California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. On January 13, 2026, State Parks distributed the Draft IS/MND for the Proposed Project to public agencies and the general public for review and comment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day review period, which ended on February 11, 206, was completed. During the public review period one comment was received.

This Final IS/MND is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0 provides a discussion of the purpose of the document and discusses the structure of the document;
- Section 2.0 contains a summary of the Project Description, and a discussion of why recirculation of the Draft IS/MND is not required;
- Section 3.0 includes the comment letters received and responses to these comments;
- Section 4.0 includes corrections and revisions made to the Draft IS/MND in response to comments;
- Section 5.0 includes the Proposed Project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6; and
- Section 6.0 includes the Notice of Intent, Proof of Publication, Environmental Filing Receipt, and the Draft IS/MND.

This Final MND document and the Draft IS/MND together constitute the environmental document for the Proposed Project. As a result of comments received on the Draft IS/MND, minor revisions were required to the Draft IS/MND text, however, there were no substantial revisions that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the *2021 CEQA Statute Guidelines* shall mean:

1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or

2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.

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2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 Project Location

The 30.71-acre Project Site is located within Garrapata SP, Monterey County, and is located approximately 4 driving miles south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea on Highway 1.

Most of Garrapata SP is situated on the east side of Highway 1, rising steeply from the coastal bluffs and featuring trails through scrub and grassland covered hillsides and redwood-filled canyons. Parking for the SP is limited to the shoulders along Highway 1 with a small turnout on the east side that can accommodate approximately 10-15 cars. Trail access on the east side of the park includes the Rocky Ridge Trail and Soberanes Canyon Trail which connect near the east end of Soberanes Canyon and create a loop trail totaling approximately 4.25 miles.

2.2 Project Description Summary

The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

2.3 Decision Not to Recirculate Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

According to Section 15073.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, "A lead agency is required to recirculate a negative declaration when the document must be substantially revised after public notice of its availability has been given pursuant to Section 15072 but prior to its adoption."

Revisions were proposed, however this Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) does not meet the criteria for recirculation provided in Section 15073.5 (c) of the CEQA Guidelines. These criteria are provided below, along with an explanation regarding the reasons why the changes to the Project do not require recirculation.

Recirculation is not required under the following circumstances:

(1) Mitigation measures are replaced with equal or more effective measures pursuant to Section 15074.1.

a. No mitigation measures have been replaced.

(2) New Project revisions are added in response to written or verbal comments on the Project's effects identified in the proposed negative declaration which are not new avoidable significant effects.

a. No project revisions were made.

(3) Measures or conditions of Project approval are added after circulation of the negative declaration, which is not required by CEQA, which do not create new significant environmental effects, and are not necessary to mitigate an avoidable significant effect.

a. No mitigation measures have been replaced or revised.

(4) New information is added to the negative declaration which merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes insignificant modifications to the negative declaration.

a. No new information was added to the IS/MND.

3.0 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This section of the document contains copies of the comment letters received during the 30-day public review period, which began on January 9, 2026 and ended on February 9, 2026. In conformance with Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, State Parks has considered comments on environmental issues from reviewers of the Draft IS/MND and has prepared written responses. One comment letter was received via email during the 30-day comment period. These letters, and the responses to the comments contained in the letters are provided in this section.

A list of public agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft IS/MND is presented below. The letter and response to comments follow this page.

3.1 List of Comment Letters

Letter Number	Sender	Date Received
1	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	February 9, 2026

3.2 Letter 1 – Caltrans June 25, 2025

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5
50 HIGUERA STREET | SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
(805) 549-3101 | FAX (805) 549-3329 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

February 9, 2026

MON-101-65.616
SCH # 2026010310

Jim Doran, Acting District Maintenance Chief
California State Parks, Monterey District
Via email: CEQA.NSC@parks.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Doran:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project which is located along State Route (SR) 1 at Soberanes Point near Carmel. The project proposes a 5-mile Class 2 pedestrian trail, including re-routing 3-miles of decommissioned trail providing continued access to Rock Ridge and Soberanes Canyon Trail. No parking onsite is proposed. Caltrans offers the following comments at this time: Caltrans-1

General Comments:

- Caltrans supports local development that is consistent with State planning priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. We accomplish this by working with local jurisdictions to achieve a shared vision of how the transportation system should and can accommodate interregional and local travel and development. Caltrans-2

Specific Comments:

- The State Park trailhead currently has no parking but is fully dependent on users driving to this remote site. Please provide an assessment of the number of visitors expected to use the trail and the proposed plan for how trailhead parking will be provided and managed to ensure safe access and operation of SR 1. Please include the plan if visitors surpass the anticipated number of visitors. Caltrans-3
- Please provide information on whether the trail work will include installation of trail markers and trail signs and their proposed locations. Caltrans-4
- If any additional parking areas are proposed within the SR 1 right-of-way, cultural resources and biological resources studies may be required prior to issuance of an encroachment permit. Caltrans-5
- Please be aware that if any work is completed in the State's right-of-way will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans, and must be done to our engineering and environmental standards, and at no cost to the State. The conditions of approval and the requirements for the encroachment permit are Caltrans-6

"Improving lives and communities through transportation."

issued at the sole discretion of the Permits Office, and nothing in this letter shall be implied as limiting those future conditions and requirements. For more information regarding the encroachment permit process, please visit our Encroachment Permit Website at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications.

Caltrans-6 Continued

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. If you have any questions or need further clarification on the items discussed above, please contact me at (805) 835-6555 or email ingrid.mcroberts@dot.ca.gov.

Caltrans-7

Sincerely,

Ingrid McRoberts

Ingrid McRoberts
Caltrans District 5
Local Development Review Coordinator

Cc: Kelly McClendon, Regional Planning-North Branch Chief

Response to Comment Caltrans-1:

This comment is introductory and summarizes the Proposed Project. The comment is hereby noted.

Response to Comment Caltrans-2:

This comment describes Caltrans' mission and intent. The comment is hereby noted.

Response to Comment Caltrans-3:

The Proposed Project is anticipated to result in minimal increases to the existing number of daily/yearly visitors to the trail but instead is expected to primarily appeal to users or groups who are already visiting the area. As described in Section 2.1 of the IS/MND, the Rocky Ridge Trail is currently closed due to safety concerns. The trail currently has failed step sections that were a direct result of the steep trail that, in its current alignment, is highly subject to erosion. Even with the closure, the trail still remains used buy visitors that go under the closed sign and access the trail. The project proposes to improve the trail so that it is once again safe for the public to use. The Proposed Project will fix and reconstruct the existing pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new- re-routed trail, and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade while still maintaining access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connection with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does. Visitors to the facility would have the same access to parking as what currently exists onsite. No new parking would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project, and trail users would still use the existing parking facilities along Highway 1.

Anticipated construction activities that would take place during Project construction may result in a temporary increase in parked vehicles as a result of the movement of construction personnel, equipment, and materials to and from the Project Site; however, these impacts are temporary in nature and will not substantially increase the overall demand in parking associated with the Rocky Ridge Trail project. Since the Proposed Project is re-establishing an existing trail that was closed due to hazardous conditions, providing connectivity to existing trail (Soberanes Canyon Trail), and not constructing any new parking facilities, the Project is not anticipated to result in an appreciable increase to the existing number of daily/yearly visitors to the park.

Response to Comment Caltrans-4:

The project does not propose any new signage but would continue to utilize and maintain pre-existing signs and posts at the trailhead as well as the Rocky Ridge/ Soberanes Canyon Trail intersection. The "Rocky Ridge Trail" sign markers have been replaced with trail closed postings since the trail has been closed for a while, but these would be replaced (at the same location) with appropriate signage when the trail opens. All signage would remain within existing locations and outside of the Caltrans right-of-way.

Response to Comment Caltrans-5:

As stated above in Comments Caltrans-3, no new parking would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project, so trail users would have to use the existing parking facilities along Highway 1. No construction would take place within the Caltrans right-of-way. Encroachment permit would not be required as a part of the proposed project.

Response to Comment Caltrans-6:

Caltrans' comment outlines the procedures on when an encroachment permit would be required. The Proposed Project does not anticipate any work on the State's Right of Way, and therefore, would not require an encroachment permit. Comment is noted and the Project will comply with all applicable regulatory requirements.

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4.0 REVISIONS TO THE DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

As a result of minor Project changes and comments received on the Draft IS/MND, no revisions were made to the Draft IS/MND text.

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5.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – Notice of Intent

Appendix B – Proof of Publication

Appendix C – CDFW Filing Fee Receipt

Appendix D – Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

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APPENDIX A

Notice of Intent

DATE: January 9, 2026

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project — MONTEREY COUNTY**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project (Proposed Project). DPR has directed the preparation of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in compliance with CEQA.

Project Location: The project is located within Garrapata State Park, along Highway 1 at Soberanes Point, Carmel California, 93923. The Park is located approximately four miles south of Carmel-By-The-Sea, Monterey County.

Project Description: The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail (Project) is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

The Rocky Ridge trail is currently closed due to safety concerns. The trail currently has failed step sections that were a direct result of the steep trail that, in its current alignment, is highly subject to erosion. The trail is currently closed due to hiker safety concerns. In the past, efforts were made to deal with the erosion using water bars and replacement of steps as they became undermined, but the trail was ultimately shown to be unmaintainable and a plan to re-route the trail per the Proposed Project was developed.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: Potentially significant impacts on biological resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts are reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of mitigation measures. Additionally, the Project also includes Standard Project Requirements and Project Specific Requirements to ensure that all potential impacts are further reduced to a less than significant level.

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant to Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, State Parks acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the project area reviewed by this MND.

IS/MND Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the IS/MND will extend for 30 days starting **January 9, 2026 and ending February 9, 2026**. The IS/MND can also be viewed and/or downloaded on the DPR website at the following web addresses:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=579
https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=982

Comments/Questions: Comments and/or questions regarding the IS/ND may be directed to Amberly Morgan, ECORP Consulting, 2525 Warren Drive, Rocklin CA 95677 amorgan@ecorpconsulting.com or Jim Doran, California Department of Parks and Recreation, One Capitol Mall (Suite 410), Sacramento, CA 95814 or email: ceqa.nsc@parks.ca.gov

APPENDIX B

Proof of Publication

MONTEREY HERALD
Serving Monterey County

Published by The Monterey Herald
2555 Garden Road, Suite J., Monterey CA 93940
(831) 726-4382

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ECORP CONSULTING, INC.
Account No. 3822658
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ROCKLIN, CA 95677

Legal No. 0006942704
Jan. 2026 - NOI Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

Ordered by: bgustafson@ecorpconsulting.com

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Monterey

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Herald, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily and Sunday in the City of Monterey, County of Monterey, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Monterey, State of California; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than 6 point), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

01/13/26

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 01/13/2026 at Monterey, California.

Rosario Rogue

Signature

APPENDIX C

CDFW Filing Fee Receipt

To Be Provided Upon Filing Of Final Document

APPENDIX D

Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the
Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

DRAFT

Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

January 2026

Lead Agency:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
One Capitol Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, California 95814

Prepared by:

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, California 9567

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DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
GARRAPATA STATE PARK ROCKY RIDGE TRAIL PROJECT

Lead Agency:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Project Proponent:	California State Parks
Project Location:	Garrapata State Park, Highway 1 at Soberanes Point, Carmel, CA 93923

Availability of documents

The Initial Study for this Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review online at the California Department of Parks and Recreation Website at the following link:

Online at: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=981

Project Description

The Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail (Project) is a proposed Class 2 pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade but still maintain access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connect with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does.

Public Review Period

Questions or comments regarding this Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration should be submitted in writing to:

Jim Doran, California State Parks, Monterey District
Acting District Maintenance Chief
E-mail Address: CEQA.NSC@parks.ca.gov.

Submission must be in writing and postmarked or received by mail or e-mail no later than February 9, 2026.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the Project requirements detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature _____ _____

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Appendix D – Proposed Project Total Construction-Related Gasoline Usage, ECORP Consulting, Inc. 2023.

Appendix E – Roadway Construction Noise Model, Version 1.1, ECORP Consulting, Inc. 2023

Appendix F – California Department of Parks and Recreation Trails Handbook

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
^{o}F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
ADT	average daily trips
AMBAG	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ARD	Aquatic Resources Delineation
BCC	Bird of Conservation Concern
BMP	Best Management Practice
BRA	Biological Resources Assessment
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Term	Definition
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCA	California Coastal Act of 1976
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCRWQCB	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDP	Coastal Development Permit
CDPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
Coroner	Monterey County Coroner
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CRLF	California Red-Legged Frog"
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CSQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agencies
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels

Term	Definition
District	California State Parks Monterey District
DN	Department Notice
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DPO	Departmental Preservation Officer
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECORP	ECORP Consulting, Inc.
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESHA	Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FYLF	Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog
GHG	greenhouse gas
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IS	Initial Study
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
LCP	Local Coastal Program
L_{dn}	average daily noise level
L_{eq}	average equivalent noise level
LSAA	Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement
LUP	Land Use Plan
MBARD	Monterey Bay Air Resources District
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCV	Manual of California Vegetation
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MM	Mitigation Measure

Term	Definition
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
mph	miles per hour
MSL	Mean Sea Level
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCAB	North Central Coast Air Basin
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO_x	nitric oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWIC	Northwest Information Center
O_3	ozone
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
PM	Particulate Matter
PM_{10}	Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns in Diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns in Diameter
PPV	Peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project
PSR	Project Specific Requirement
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RPS	Renewables Portfolio Standards
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SB	Senate Bill
Sequoia	Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc.

Term	Definition
SHA	Safe Harbor Agreement
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SP	Standard Permit
SPCP	Spill Prevention and Control Plan
SPR	Site Plan Review
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSC	California Species of Special Concern
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCR	tribal cultural resource
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Summary

Project Title:	Garrapata State Park Rocky Ridge Trail Project
Lead Agency Name and Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
Contact Person and Phone Number:	Jim Doran, California State Parks, Monterey District Acting District Maintenance Chief E-mail Address: CEQA.NSC@parks.ca.gov
Project Location:	Garrapata State Park Highway 1 at Soberanes Point, Carmel, CA 93923 The Park is located along Highway 1, approximately four miles south of Carmel-By-The-Sea
General Plan Designation:	Outdoor Recreation – Big Sur Land Use Plan
Zoning:	OR-D(CZ) – Open Space Recreation Design Control Coastal Zone

1.2 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the Lead Agency for the Garrapata State Park (SP) Rocky Ridge Trail Project (Project) in Monterey County, California. This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by ECORP Consulting, Inc. to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and has been arranged to satisfy requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code [PRC], Section 21000 et seq.) and State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.). CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. A CEQA Initial Study (IS) is typically prepared to determine which CEQA document is appropriate for a project (i.e., typically an IS leads to either a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), or Environmental Impact Report [EIR]). This IS/MND is a written statement describing the reasons the Proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/MND also conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines 15071.

1.3 Lead Agency

The Lead Agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the Proposed Project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with limited purpose." As the Proposed Project is encompassed entirely within the boundaries of Garrapata SP, DPR is the Lead Agency. The contact person for the Lead Agency is:

Jim Doran, California State Parks Monterey District Acting District Maintenance Chief

CEQA.NSC@parks.ca.gov

Submission of questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration must be in writing and postmarked or received by email no later than **February 9, 2026**.

1.4 Document Purpose and Organization

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project. Project Specific Requirements (PSRs) and Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) have also been incorporated into the Project to lessen effects that clearly have no potential to be significant with or without mitigation.

This document is organized as follows:

Section 1 – Background: This chapter introduces the Project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

Section 2 – Project Description: This chapter describes the reasons for the Project, scope of the Project, objectives of the Project, and the Project requirements.

Section 3 – Environmental Factors Potentially Affected and Determination: This chapter identifies the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impacts to humans, as identified in the IS.

Section 4 – Environmental Checklist and Discussion: This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, describes the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist for Initial Studies. Project requirements and/or mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Section 5 – Summary of Project Requirements: This chapter summarizes the project specific requirements, standard project requirements and mitigation measures incorporated into the Project based on this IS.

Section 6 – List of Preparers: This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

Section 7 – References: This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/MND.

1.5 Summary of Findings

Section 4 of this document contains the IS Environmental Checklist, which identifies the potential environmental impacts and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Project. Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis and mitigation provided in this document, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas (GHG), hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, tribal cultural resources (TCRs), utilities and service systems, wildfires, and mandatory finding of significance.

In accordance with §15064(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, an MND shall be prepared if the Proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures. The MND shall include mitigation that will reduce any significant impacts to a less than significant level. Based on the available Project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project would have a significant effect on the environment.

Mitigation Measures (MMs) Incorporated in the Project to Avoid Significant Effects

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

MM BIO-1 **Special-Status Plant Species.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- The applicant shall perform pre-construction special-status plant surveys for portions of the Biological Study Area (BSA) that were not previously surveyed (due to inaccessibility and safety) according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) protocols (CDFW 2018; CNPS 2001; USFWS 2000). Surveys shall be conducted throughout the unsurveyed portions of the Project footprint, to address potential direct and indirect impacts of the Project. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. To the extent feasible, surveys will be timed according to the identifiable period for special status species and known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm target species are evident and identifiable at the time of the survey.
- If no special-status plants are found, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.

- If special-status plants are identified within the survey areas, mitigation measures in MM BIO-2 shall be implemented and they would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MM BIO-2 Hutchinson's Larkspur and other Special-Status Species. To avoid or minimize impacts to Hutchinson's larkspur and other special-status species, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- The Project impact limits shall be clearly demarcated prior to construction and all workers shall be made aware of the impact limits and avoided areas. No work shall occur outside of the Project impact limits. All vehicles and equipment shall be restricted to the Project impact limits and/or existing designated access roads and staging areas.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Hutchinson's larkspur prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas. Avoidance zones shall include the extent of special-status plants plus a 10-foot buffer and shall be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist or biological monitor shall be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- The Rocky Ridge Trail re-route or trail decommission activities may be adjusted to maximize avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur occurring in the BSA. If avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur is not feasible, DPR will consult with CDFW to develop appropriate measures to reduce impacts to the population to the extent feasible. These measures may include restoration or permanent preservation of habitat for special-status plant species or translocation (via seed collection and/or transplantation) from planned impact areas to planned decommissioned trails (or other restoration areas) within Garrapata SP that would be monitored for survival.
- Clothing, vehicles, and equipment (including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks) should be cleaned prior to entering the Project Site, and materials used for the Project (such as fill dirt or erosion control materials) should be from certified sources to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.

MM BIO-3 Special Status Bumble Bees. To avoid or minimize impacts to special status bumble bees, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee is no longer Candidate or formally Listed species under the California Endangered Species Act (ESA) at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures for non-listed species are proposed.
- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee are legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to begin, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California ESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species

(CDFW 2023a) the season immediately prior to Project implementation. A minimum of three special-status bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted at 2- to 4-week intervals during the colony active period (April through August) when special-status bumble bees are most likely to be detected. Non-lethal surveys shall be completed by a biologist who either holds a Memorandum of Understanding to capture and handle Crotch's and/or western bumble bee (if netting and chilling protocol is to be utilized), or by a CDFW-approved biologist who is experienced in identifying native bumble bee species (if surveys are restricted to visual surveys that will provide high-resolution photo documentation for species verification). The surveyor shall walk through all areas of suitable habitat focusing on areas with floral resources. Surveys shall be completed at a minimum of one person-hour of searching per 3 acres of suitable habitat during suitable weather conditions (sustained winds less than 8 miles per hour, mostly sunny to full sun, temperatures between 65° and 90°F) at an appropriate time of day for detection (at least 1 hour after sunrise and at least 2 hours before sunset, though ideally between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

- If Crotch's or western bumble bees are detected, CDFW shall be notified by the designated biologist as further coordination may be required to avoid or mitigate certain impacts. At a minimum, two nesting surveys shall be conducted with focus on detecting active nesting colonies within 1 week and the final survey within 24-hours prior to ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the flight season (February through October). If an active Crotch's or western bumble bee nest is detected, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer zone (including foraging resources and flight corridors essential for supporting the colony) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take and the designated biologist shall coordinate with CDFW to determine if an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California ESA will be required. Nest avoidance buffers may be removed at the completion of the flight season and/or once the qualified biologist deems the nesting colony is no longer active. If no nests are found but the species is present, a full-time qualified biological monitor shall be present during vegetation or ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the queen flight period (February through March), colony active period (March through September), and/or gyne flight period (September through October). Because bumble bees move nest sites each year, two preconstruction nesting surveys shall be required during each subsequent year of construction, regardless of the previous year's findings, whenever vegetation and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the flight season if nesting and foraging habitat is still present or has re-established.

MM BIO-4 **Smith's Blue Butterfly.** To avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- Project implementation shall avoid or reduce construction activities where sea cliff buckwheat plants occur during the butterfly's flight season, mid-June to early September, so as to minimize disruptions to butterfly behavior.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Smith's blue butterfly (consisting of host plants) prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas.
- Project design shall minimize impacts to or removal of sea-cliff buckwheat, by minimizing project impacts to the minimum necessary for Project implementation and making adjustments to the trail alignment during construction, where feasible. If sea cliff buckwheat plants are cut or removed for trail construction/decommission, the cut material shall be placed on/near other live buckwheat plants to allow butterflies, if present, to relocate to live plants. DPR will have an appropriate person survey the work area to identify sea cliff buckwheat.
- Implement BMPs for all Project activities.
- Consult with USFWS to ensure take coverage is acquired and determine if additional appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly are required. Minimization measures would occur within the framework of a biological opinion or Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA). Section 7 or 10 of the Federal ESA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate required minimization measures to compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly impacts. Additional measures to avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

MM BIO-5 **Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct assessment-level surveys for portions of Soberanes Creek within 100 feet of the proposed Project area (BSA) to determine whether FYLF occupy habitats within or surrounding the site.
- If surveys identify FYLF or FYLF habitat, consult with USFWS to determine appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to FYLF. Mitigation would have to occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate and required mitigation for FYLF impacts. Measures may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

MM BIO-6 California Red-Legged Frog. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Conduct visual surveys for California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) in Project areas within 300 feet of Soberanes Creek no more than 48 hours prior to disturbance for new trail construction. If CRLF are observed in the work site, a USFWS-approved biologist shall capture and relocate the frogs to other suitable habitat up- or downstream of the work area. The USFWS-approved biologist shall monitor the initial ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal in work areas adjacent to Soberanes Creek.
- Potential indirect impacts to CRLF shall be avoided or minimized through Project design, where feasible, and implementation of construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to protect aquatic habitats (e.g., erosion control measures).

MM BIO-7 Coast Range Newt. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Where habitat for Coast Range newt is identified within the Project area, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and construction). If Coast Range newts are found during a survey, newts shall be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site.
- Where habitat for Coast Range newt habitat is identified, no monofilament plastic mesh or line shall be used for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment during construction. The monitor shall inspect erosion control materials daily for entrapped Coast Range newt.

MM BIO-8 Northern California Legless Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Immediately prior to any ground disturbing activity within suitable habitat for the species, the biologist shall be given enough time to manually rake the soil in suitable habitat to locate any lizards. The biologist shall also check under any natural or artificial cover objects within suitable habitat.
- A qualified biologist shall monitor the initial ground stripping and grading of the development area for legless lizards. If any legless lizards are observed during the work, the biologist shall capture the lizards by hand or net, place the individuals in a bucket with sand, and relocate the individuals to an adjacent area (within 100 feet) of suitable habitat outside the construction zone.

MM BIO-9 Blainville's Horned Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction. A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Blainville's horned lizard within all suitable habitat in the Project work area 72 hours prior to the start of

ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. Any individuals discovered in the Project work area immediately prior to or during Project activities shall be allowed to move out of the work area of their own volition. If this is not feasible, they shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet from the Project work area where they were found.

MM BIO-10 Nesting Birds. If construction begins during February 1 to September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey in the BSA and a 100-foot buffer around the Project within 14 days prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established in coordination with CDFW until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise no longer occupied.

MM BIO-11 Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures. The following measures shall be implemented:

- The Project shall avoid aquatic resources to the extent feasible. Aquatic resources located within 50 feet of the Project footprint will be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be clearly demarcated with orange construction fencing or other visible barrier, and no Project-related activities shall be permitted within the delineated area.
- To minimize potential indirect effects, the applicant shall prepare and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to avoid and minimize erosion and runoff to wetlands and other waters that are to remain within or adjacent to the Project Site.
- Prior to the start of construction activities, CDPR will obtain all necessary regulatory permits for this Project. These permits are expected to include a CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB, a CWA Section 402 NPDES Compliance Permit from the SWRCB, a Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, from CDFW, and a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The Project shall implement all BMPs and mitigation measures identified in the issues permits.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Introduction, Background, and Need

Garrapata SP, situated on the northern end of the Big Sur coast, features nearly four miles of scenic rocky shoreline, coves, and Garrapata Beach. The park extends along four miles of Highway 1, encompassing a total of 2,902 acres. In December 2013, DPR completed the Coastal Habitat Restoration and Coastal Trail Improvement Management Plan for the Garrapata SP. The Coastal Habitat Restoration and Trail Improvement Management Plan addresses the coastal bluffs and shoreline along the west side (seaward) of Highway 1. The majority of Garrapata SP is located east of Highway 1 and consists primarily of steep hillsides covered with thick vegetation. One of the park's most physically challenging and commonly used trails is the Rocky Ridge and Soberanes Canyon loop. Frequent visitor usage combined with the extreme trail gradient has contributed to extensive erosion currently occurring along the route.

The Rocky Ridge trail is currently closed due to safety concerns. The trail currently has failed step sections that were a direct result of the steep trail that, in its current alignment, is highly subject to erosion. The trail is currently closed due to hiker safety concerns. In the past, efforts were made to deal with the erosion using water bars and replacement of steps as they became undermined, but the trail was ultimately shown to be unmaintainable and a plan to re-route the trail per the Proposed Project was developed.

2.2 Project Location and Setting

The 30.71-acre Project Site is located within Garrapata SP, Monterey County, and is located approximately 4 driving miles south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea on Highway 1 (Figure 2-1).

Most of Garrapata SP is situated on the east side of Highway 1, rising steeply from the coastal bluffs and featuring trails through scrub and grassland covered hillsides and redwood-filled canyons (Figure 2-2). Parking for the SP is limited to the shoulders along Highway 1 with a small turnout on the east side that can accommodate approximately 10-15 cars. Trail access on the east side of the park includes the Rocky Ridge Trail and Soberanes Canyon Trail which connect near the east end of Soberanes Canyon and create a loop trail totaling approximately 4.25 miles (Figure 2-3).

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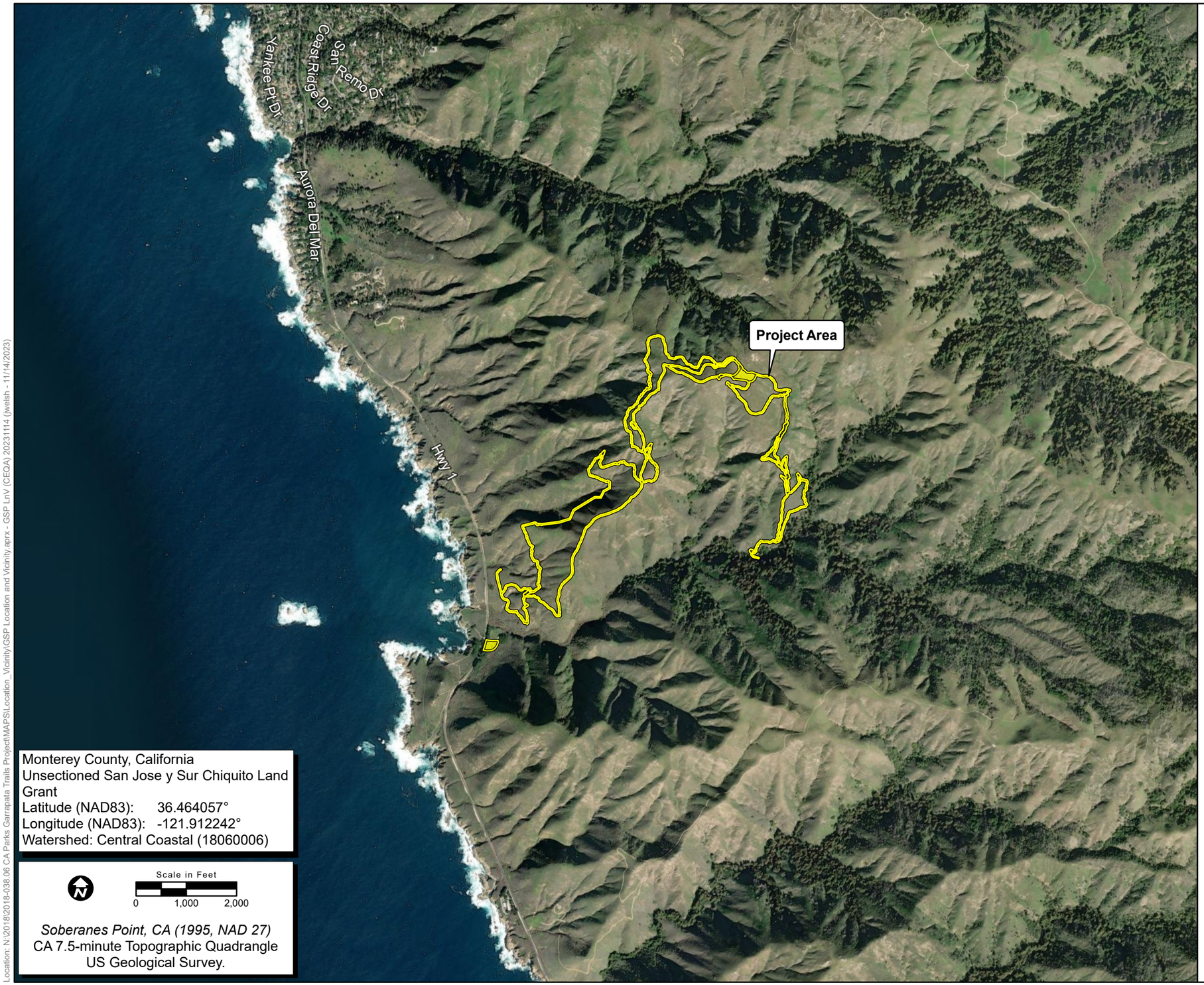

Map Contents

Project Area - 30.80 ac.

Monterey County, California
Unsectioned San Jose y Sur Chiquito Land Grant
Latitude (NAD83): 36.464057°
Longitude (NAD83): -121.912242°
Watershed: Central Coastal (18060006)

Scale in Feet
0 1,000 2,000

Soberanes Point, CA (1995, NAD 27)
CA 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle
US Geological Survey.

Sources: CA State Parks, ESRI, Maxar (2022)

Location: N:\2018\2018-038.06 CA Parks Garrapata Trails Project\MAPS\Location_Vicinity\GSP Location and Vicinity aprx - GSP LnV (CEQA) 20231114 (jwelsh - 11/14/2023)

Map Date: 11/14/2023

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Figure 2-1. Location and Vicinity

2018-038.06 CA Parks Garrapata Trails Project

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Photo 1. Representative photo of Seaside Wooly-Sunflower - Seaside Daisy - Buckwheat Patches. Photo taken June 13, 2023.

Photo 2. Representation photo of Deerweed—Silver Lupine–Yerba Santa Scrub. Photo taken July 13, 2023.

Photo 3. Representation photo of existing trail from the northeast elevation showing erosion damage. Photo taken April12, 2023.

Photo 4. Existing trail ridge, south elevation, showing erosion damage. Photo taken April 12, 2023.

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Figure 2-2. Representative Site Photographs

2018-038.06/Garrapata State Park- Rocky Ridge Trail Project

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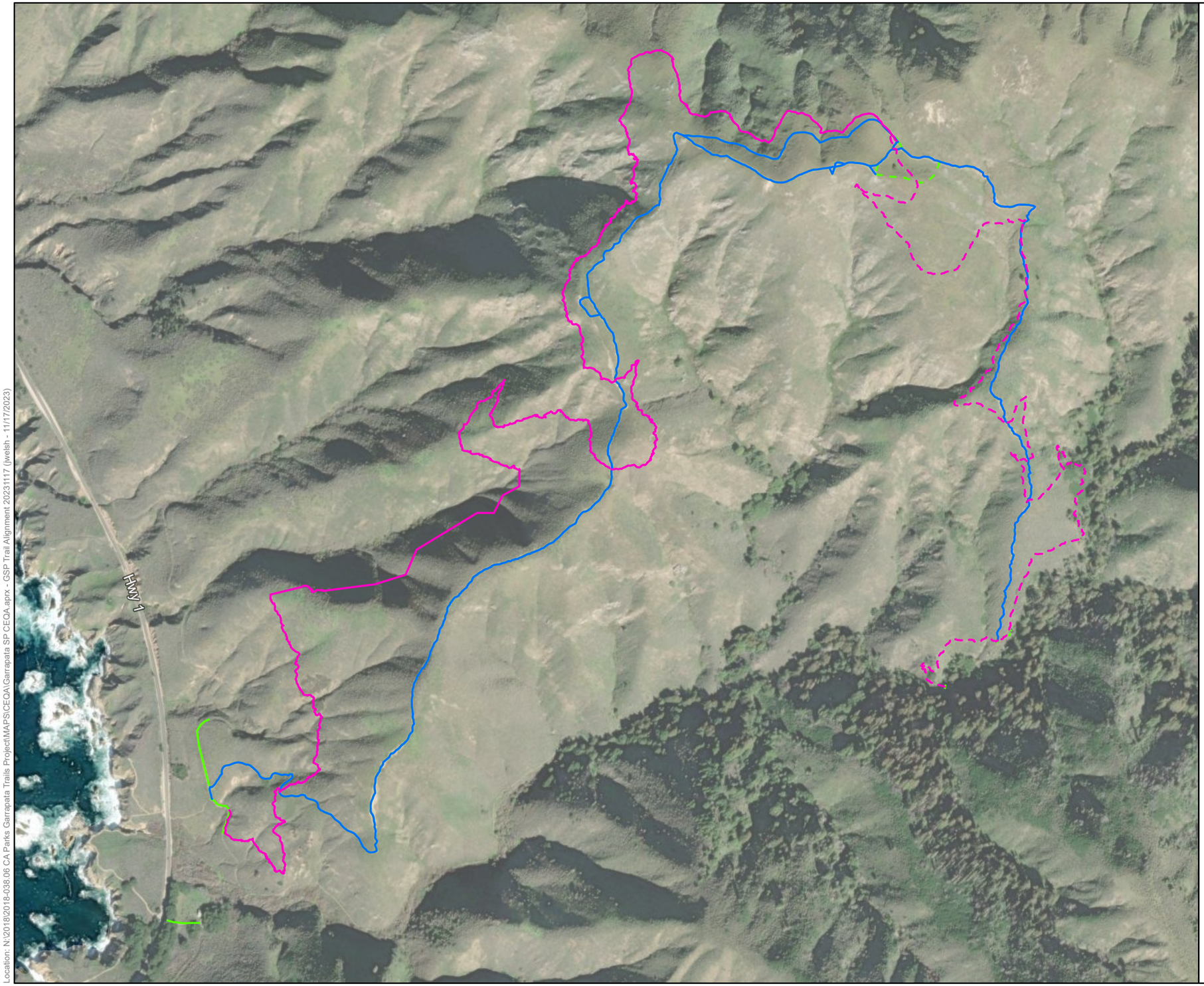


Map Contents

New Trail

- Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute,Front
- Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute,Back

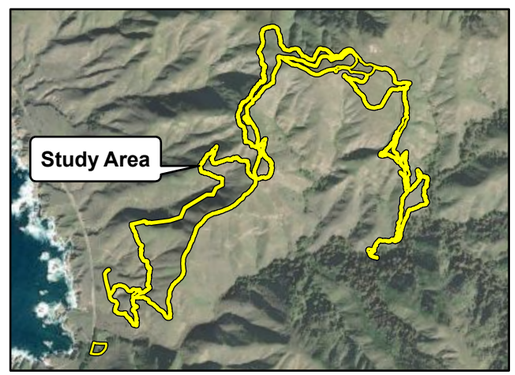
Trail To Remain

- Existing Trail,Front
- Existing Trail,Back

Trail To Be Removed

- Trail Decommission

Sources: California State Parks, ESRI, Maxar (2022), Monterey County



Location: N:\2018\2018-038.06 CA Parks Garrapata Trails Project\MAPS\CEQA\Garrapata SP CEQA aprx - GSP Trail Alignment 20231117 (jwelsh - 11/17/2023)

Map Date: 11/17/2023

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Scale in Feet
0 700

Figure 2-3. Trail Alignment

2018-038.06 CA Parks Garrapata Trails Project

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2.3 Trail Siting and Design Standards

Development of public recreational trail projects undertaken by the Department of Parks and Recreation follow the standards and guidelines outlined in the DPR's Trails Manual and California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines. These documents provide guidance in the design of access to developed and undeveloped areas of our parks. The purpose of this guidance is to enhance visitor enjoyment and provide recreational opportunities in a sustainable manner while minimizing impacts to all resources.

DPR places trails into class categories to create a management system to objectively assign standards and priorities that are consistent with the primary function, environmental sensitivity, the relationship to developed facilities and visitor use. The class categories are as follows:

- **Class I** - Includes accessible, equestrian and bike, interpretive, and hiking uses. Trails can include surfacing materials and various structures for improving ease of access, for resource protection, and visitor safety. The trail bed is 36-48" wide; trail clearing will be 8' high and wide (4' feet from trail center), brushing limits will be 8' high, equestrian trail 10' high; trail structures will have a 48" tread width and a minimum 40" tread width between handrails and posts, equestrian bridges will have a 52" minimum tread width between handrails; 'all access' trail tread will be designed to accommodate wheelchairs and be a minimum of 5' wide for two wheelchairs to pass one another.
- **Class II** - Includes hiking, equestrian, and bicycling trails providing access into regions away from developed visitor facilities, native material is used from the trail tread; drainage structures such as turnpikes or puncheons are only installed over wetlands; trail bed is a minimum of 24" wide and trail tread will vary from 18-24" depending on surrounding terrain. Trail clearing is the same as for Class I trails.
- **Class III** - Includes lightly used hiking trails; native materials used for trail tread; drainage structures are only installed as a mitigation measure; trail bed is a minimum of 18" wide and trail tread is 12-18" wide depending on surrounding terrain. Trail clearing will be 8 feet high by 6 feet wide.
- **Class IV** - Special use and access trails; tread bed and tread work are minimal to provide safe footing; designed to avoid all need for structures and drainage controls; trail clearing limits are minimal for passage.

The Rocky Ridge trail will be designed as a Class II trail.

2.4 Project Objectives

The mission of DPR is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality recreation.

This Project supports State Park's mission by:

- replacing the existing Rocky Ridge Trail with a trail that is safe for public use;

- providing a new alignment that minimizes impacts to sensitive natural and cultural resources and is not subject to the accelerated erosion that the existing alignment is experiencing;
- spreading out trail use on the east side of Garrapata SP so hikers are not concentrated on the Soberanes Canyon Trail which is currently overused;
- providing improved and enhanced public access to the popular east side of Garrapata SP; and
- obliterating and restoring the abandoned segments of the Rocky Ridge Trail in order to limit further erosion and habitat loss.

2.5 Project Description

2.5.1 Trail Design

2.5.1.1 Trail Components

The Rocky Ridge Trail Project is a proposed pedestrian trail Project totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The re-aligned trail will be longer than the existing trail since it will be constructed at a lesser grade while still maintaining access to the top of Rocky Ridge and connection with the Soberanes Canyon Trail like the existing trail does. The Rocky Ridge Trail can be divided into 2 main segments, the frontside and backside. The frontside segment of the existing trail is 2 miles long and the backside is 1 mile long. The Project will include a re-route of each of these segments as well as rehabilitation of each of the existing trail alignments. The frontside segment includes 3 miles of new construction starting from the beginning of the existing Rocky Ridge Trail near Highway 1 up to the top of Rocky Ridge. The backside segment includes 2 miles of new trail that connects the top of the Rocky Ridge Trail to the Soberanes Canyon Trail.

The trail re-route has been designed in accordance with the DPR Trails Handbook which outlines standards of a good trail including curvilinear alignment, full bench construction with adequate out slope, linear grades that do not exceed the maximum grade, the trail does not disrupt or alter the hydrology of the landform, and the trail will require minimal routine and cyclical maintenance.

The proposed trail will maintain a width of 4 feet where possible and will be almost entirely of natural surface. Trail structures will be required to navigate some steep sections of hillside and cross small drainages. These structures will include rock retaining walls, wood retaining walls, interlocking wood steps, armored drainage crossings, and switchbacks. (See Figure 2-3: Trail Alignment)

Construction Approach

The Project will be completed by DPR trail crews including staff from the California State Parks Monterey District (District) Roads and Trails program as well as the Statewide Trails Program in conjunction with youth corps crews such as the California Conservation Corps. Due to the steep hillsides, the majority of the work will be completed with hand tools, handheld power tools, and small mechanized equipment such as toters and rock drills. In Project areas where it is possible to use heavy equipment, state park equipment operators will use mini-excavators and trail dozers to construct portions of the new trail as well as rehabilitate the existing trail.

Construction Techniques for Re-route

The frontside segment of the re-route will consist of approximately 3 miles of new trail construction. However, a short 500-foot section of the existing trail will be kept and utilized as part of the new alignment. It will be capped with aggregate starting at the Soberanes Canyon/ Rocky Ridge Trail junction past the initial bridge crossing nearest the Highway 1 trailhead before tying into the beginning of the re-route. There is also a small segment of the existing trail of approximately 700 feet that will be kept on the backside. The rest of the frontside new alignment as well as the 2-mile-long backside segment of the re-route will be constructed using the following methods and structures which are outlined in detail in the Trails Handbook (Appendix F) sections referenced below.

- Trail tread construction by hand crews (Section 11.1.3 – Tread Construction)
- Trail tread construction with heavy equipment (Section 11.4 – Use of Mechanized Equipment)
- Interlocking wood steps (Section 17.4.8.1 – Interlocking Steps)
- Wood retaining walls (see figure 13.4)
- Soldier-pile retaining walls (See figure 13.15)
- Multi-tier rock retaining walls (see figure 13.19)
- Non-structural rock walls (see photo 13.1)
- Armored drainage swales (see figure 14.7)
- Switchback construction (see figure 12.2)
- Climbing turn construction (see figure 12.4)

Rehabilitation of Existing Trail

The current Rocky Ridge Trail will mostly be removed, obliterated, and restored as best possible to limit further erosion and habitat degradation. Heavy equipment will be used during trail removal and rehabilitation, when possible, but due to the extremely steep terrain most of the work will be implemented by hand crews. Methods for removing the 3 miles of existing trail are listed below. The specific method implemented will vary per the Project trail log and is based on such factors as, ability to import equipment, availability of material to work with onsite, and severity of entrenchment of each section of trail. The below methods of trail removal and rehabilitation are outlined in the Trails Handbook (Appendix F) .

- Recontour of trail by hand or with equipment (see photo 27.7 and figure 27.3)
- Installation of check dams (see figure 27.5)
- Revegetation (see figure 27.6)

Project Implementation

Construction on the Rocky Ridge Trail will be performed by 12-person youth corps crews such as the California Conservation Corps in conjunction with DPR staff. The crews typically work a "spike" schedule (8 days on 6 days off) and live out of a spike camp while working on the Project. The crews will primarily utilize an existing camp location at the District Road and Trail Program headquarters in Point Lobos Ranch which is 5 miles north of the Project Site. Youth corps crews typically travel to the various districts throughout the state for projects, so a spike camp location within a reasonable distance for the daily commute to the Project is utilized. The California Conservation Corps crews utilize a15 person capacity crew-carrier vehicle to transport workers to the Project each day. Construction of the Trail Project would take place year-round and work in drainages and wetlands will be governed by regulatory permit work windows. Construction crews will work a 10-hour workday. The work schedule will be eight (8) consecutive workdays on, and six (6) consecutive workdays off. This will include working on some weekends. Construction will take place in areas away from public use areas and will not conflict with public or operational uses. Construction crews will use hand tools and small power equipment for construction activities. In addition to hand tools, brush cutters and weed whips will be used to clear vegetation from the construction corridor. Toters and small rubber tire vehicles (mule or gator) will be used to assist in the transport of materials. A rubber tire backhoe or mini excavator may be used to assist in placement of bridge stringers. All identified excavation will be done by hand with hand tools. Access and material transport to and from worksites will take place in the proposed trail alignment corridor.

In addition to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Standard Project Requirements (SPR) and Project Specific Requirements (PSRS) will be incorporated into the Project design. A Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared to ensure that natural and cultural resources in and around the Project Site are adequately protected during and after construction activities (see Section 4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality). The BMPs discussed in this document and used in the implementation of the Project are obtained from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CSQA) Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook (2003). Temporary BMPs would be used to keep sediment on-site throughout the duration of the Project and would be checked daily, maintained, and modified as needed during construction. In addition, permanent BMPs would be used after construction work to stabilize the site and minimize erosion. DPR has consistently referenced CSQA BMPs and has identified them as an acceptable standard for use in all units of the State Park System.

2.6 Project Requirements

Under the CEQA guidelines, DPR is in a unique role as both the Lead Agency and one of four Trustee Agencies. The Lead Agency is a public agency that has the primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project and for implementing CEQA. A Trustee Agency is a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California. DPR takes this distinction with responsibility to ensure that its actions protect both cultural and natural resources on all projects.

However, DPR is also the Project Proponent. Because of its unique role as Lead Agency, Trustee Agency as well as the Project Proponent, DPR's resource professionals take a prominent and influential role during the Project conceptualization, design, and planning process consistent with Section 15004(b)(1) of CEQA.

Their early involvement during the planning process enables environmental considerations to influence Project programming and design. This approach permits DPR under CEQA Section 15065(b)(1), to incorporate Project modifications prior to the start of the public review process of the environmental document, to avoid impacts to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur.

As part of its effort to avoid impacts, DPR also maintains a list of SPRs that are included in the Project design to reduce impacts to resources. From this list, SPRs are assigned, as appropriate to all projects. For example, projects that include ground-disturbing activities such as trenching would always include SPRs addressing the inadvertent discovery of archaeological artifacts. However, for a project that replaces a roof on an historic structure, ground disturbance would not be necessary; therefore, Standard Project Requirements (SPRs) for ground disturbance would not be applicable and DPR would not assign it to the Project.

DPR also makes use of Project Specific Requirements (PSR). DPR develops these minimization measures for projects that have unique issues but do not typically standardize these for projects statewide. As part of the IS review process, DPR has identified the following SPRs and PSRs that apply to the Project to lessen effects that clearly have no potential to be significant. The Project Requirements are provided in Table 2-1. Project Requirements.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements

Issue	Project Requirement
General	
SPR GEN -1: Pre-Construction	Prior to the start of on-site construction work, trail construction crews will consult with the Project manager to identify all resources that must be protected.
SPR GEN -2: Heavy Equipment	No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be allowed in identified environmentally sensitive areas at any time; foot traffic will only be allowed with specific permission after clearance from the Project manager. At the discretion of the Project manager, mechanized vehicles on biological resource sites will be restricted to a short- term use of rubber tire tractors only. All such vehicles must enter and exit the area via the same route of travel (by backing up). Vehicles are strictly prohibited from turning on the surface of site(s).
Aesthetics	
SPR AES-1: Trail Construction	Materials used in trail construction will be native rock materials, with emphasis on aggregate material that blends with soils native to the respective turnpike locations.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements	
Issue	**Project Requirement**
Air Quality	
SPR AIR-1: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	The following shall be conducted prior to initiation or during Project construction: • Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The MBARD's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. • All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph. • All construction-related equipment and engines will be maintained in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements. • Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of CCR). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. • Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved roadways by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other Project-related activity will be promptly removed.
SPR AIR-2: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with dust suppressant to reduce dust without causing runoff
SPR AIR-3: Fugitive Dust and Ozone	The following shall be conducted prior to and during Project construction: • All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard. • All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements. • Paved streets adjacent to the park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from Project-related activities. • Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 25 mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.
Biological Resources	
SPR BIO-1: General Measures	A qualified biologist shall conduct a mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program for all trail construction crews, work crews, and any onsite personnel to aid workers in recognizing special-status species and sensitive biological resources that may occur onsite. The program shall include identification of the special-status species and their habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and SPRs and PSRs required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements	
Issue	**Project Requirement**
SPR BIO-2: Implement DPR BMPs	Applicable BMPs from the DPR Coastal Habitat Restoration and Coastal Trail Improvement Management Plan for Garrapata State Park shall be implemented (DPR 2013).
Cultural Resources	
SPR CUL-1: Undocumented Cultural Resources	If anyone discovers previously undocumented cultural resources during Project construction, work within 100 feet of the find will be temporarily halted until a DPR Qualified cultural resources specialist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resources protection. DPR will modify the Project to ensure that construction activities will avoid cultural resources upon review and approval of a DPR Archaeologist. If ground disturbing activities uncover intact cultural features (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic ash) or human remains, when a DPR Qualified cultural resources specialist is not on-site Project manager/site supervisor will contact the DPR State Representative immediately and Project manager/site supervisor will temporarily halt or divert work within the immediate vicinity of the find until a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist evaluates the find and determines the appropriate treatment and disposition. The archaeologist shall notify the Monterey County Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the Project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
PSR CUL-2: Cultural Monitoring Plan	A comprehensive Cultural Monitoring Plan will be implemented for the Project and will include both construction and long-term post-construction monitoring. Monitoring will be conducted by a DPR Archaeologist and a Native American representative affiliated with the area. Construction Monitoring will be implemented at the discretion of the California State Park archaeologist and will focus on those locations where trail construction is adjacent to archaeological sites (CA-MNT-2449). The DPR Archaeologist with assistance from a tribal representative, will monitor other construction activities as deemed necessary.
PSR CUL-3: Cultural Awareness Training	All workers, regardless of location, shall receive worker awareness cultural resources sensitivity training prior to construction. The training program should be developed by an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology and include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources and TCRs, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating state laws and regulations. It should also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and TCRs that may be located at the Project locations and provide guidance on procedures to follow if any cultural resources or tribal resources are encountered.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements	
Issue	**Project Requirement**
Geology and Soils	
SPR GEO-1: Erosion Control BMPs	Best Management Practices shall be implemented in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, or trenching. BMPs must always be in place including, but not limited to, covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and disturbed areas.
SPR GEO-2: Debris Slide/Flow Signage	No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be driven through wet areas during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.
PSR GEO-3: Rehabilitation Plan	DPR will follow the trails handbook for the decommissioned trail that includes using brush removed from the new trail alignment for bio-mechanical erosion control (bundling slash and keying it in to fall of trail, filling damaged trails sections with soil and duff removed from the new trail alignment, constructing water bars, and replanting native vegetation).
SPR PALEO-1: Undiscovered Paleontological Resources	If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until DPR is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. If DPR resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, the DPR will have a paleontologist onsite to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
SPR HAZ-1: Spill Prevention and Response	Prior to the start of onsite construction activities, the construction manager will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the Project Site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.
SPR HAZ-2: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	Prior to the start of construction, the construction manager will develop a Fire Safety Plan for DPR approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both CAL FIRE and local fire department(s).
SPR HAZ-3: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Project Site, which allows direct contact with CAL FIRE and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.
SPR HAZ-4: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	Under dry conditions, an available water resource or fire suppressant shall be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.
SPR HAZ-5: Wildfire Avoidance and Response	All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on-site. Construction crews shall park vehicles in an area without flammable materials, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews shall park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements	
Issue	**Project Requirement**
Hydrology and Water Quality	
SPR HYD-1: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, DPR will prepare and submit an SWPPP for DPR approval that identifies temporary BMPs (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of wildlife-friendly silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and an SPCP, as appropriate
SPR HYD-2: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	The Project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan.
SPR HYD-3: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.
SPR HYD-4: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention	If construction activities extend into the rainy season or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the trail construction crews will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. All erosion control measures must be wildlife friendly and will not pose a threat for species to become entangled in netting.
Noise	
SPR NOI-1: Noise Exposure	Internal combustion engines used for Project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts) whenever necessary.
SPR NOI-2: Noise Exposure	The trail construction crews will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.
SPR NOI-3: Noise Exposure	Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. (check contract documents for time restrictions).
Tribal Cultural Resources	
PSR TCR-1: Tribal Coordination	Any interested Native American groups will be informed no less than a month before construction about Proposed Project Activities that are planned within or near site CA-MNT-2449.

Table 2-1. Project Requirements	
Issue	**Project Requirement**
PSR TCR-2: Avoidance of TCRs	In coordination with Project Requirement PSR CUL-1, at least three weeks in advance of Project construction, the Construction Manager will notify DPR Archaeologist and any interested Native American groups of the beginning construction date. The interested parties will be given an opportunity to monitor trail construction during earth moving work. Prior to construction, a meeting will be held between the construction manager, Project supervisors, construction crews, representatives of any other interested Native American Groups, and a DPR Archaeologist to discuss the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and fence installation along certain portions of the trail alignment. A DPR Archaeologist, or a qualified professional archaeologist, will work with the construction manager to install temporary fencing and/or flagging around the Environmentally Sensitive Areas at least 7 calendar days prior to initiating any work in the area. The construction manager will contact the DPR archaeologist no less than 14 calendar days prior to the installation date of Environmentally Sensitive Areas fencing. No less than one week prior to the installation date, the archaeologist will contact interested Native American groups and offer the opportunity for a tribal member to participate in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas fence installation. Any potential TCRs or any discoveries including human remains that are observed in any location will be subject to the decision process in PSR CUL-2 and subsequent consultation between the monitoring tribe(s) and DPR to evaluate and, if necessary, treat the discovery to the satisfaction of DPR.

Notes: AB = Assembly Bill; CAL FIRE = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; CCR = California Code of Regulations; CCRWQCB = Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; Coroner = Monterey County Coroner; DPR = California Department of Parks and Recreation; MBARD = Monterey Bay Air Resources District; MLD = Most Likely Descendant; mph = miles per hour; NAHC = Native American Heritage Commission; PRC = Public Resources Code; PSR = Project Specific Requirement; SPCP = Spill Prevention and Control Plan; SPR = Standard Project Requirement; SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan; TCR = tribal cultural resource

2.7 Consistency with Local Plans and Policies

All Project components would be implemented entirely within the boundaries of Garrapata SP. The Proposed Project is consistent with the mission of DPR to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality recreation. The Proposed Project is consistent with local plans and policies currently in effect, including the Coastal Habitat Restoration and Coastal Trail Improvement Management Plan (please see Section 2.1 and 4.11 for further details).

2.8 Discretionary Approvals

DPR retains approval authority for the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project also requires consultation with the following government agencies:

- Monterey County – Coastal Permit Approval

- CDFW – 1602 Permit
- USACE – 404 Permit
- State Water Quality Control Board – 401 Permit
- USFWS – Safe Harbors Agreement

Additional internal document reviews include compliance with PRC 5024. DPR will acquire all necessary reviews and permits prior to implementing any Project components requiring regulatory review.

2.9 Consultation With California Native American Tribe(s)

Attempts were made to contact all known Tribal groups with an affiliation with the Project Area. Contact was made via certified letters, email correspondence, and during in person, and remote meetings. The following Tribal groups were contacted during the planning of this project:

- Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe (CRCT)
- KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Costanoan-Ohlone Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria
- Ohlone-Costanoan-Esselen Tribe
- Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

One Tribe responded in writing regarding their desire to consult on the project as well as be present to monitor aspects of the work. Consultation is ongoing with this Tribe. Remote meetings were conducted with another Tribe, and comments were received on the project. Ongoing attempts to reach out to the other Tribal groups continue via email, notifying them of the project and seeking input on the plans.

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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND DETERMINATION

3.1 Environmental Factors

3.1.1 Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ☐ Aesthetics
- ☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☒ Biological Resources
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Geology and Soils
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Land Use and Planning
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Paleontological Resources
- ☐ Population and Housing
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☐ Utilities and Service Systems
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☒

I find that the Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. ☐

I find that the Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Project, nothing further is required. ☐

AGENCY REP NAME TITLE		Date

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Aesthetics

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

4.1.1.1 Regional Setting

The Proposed Project is located on the Monterey County Coast, approximately 4 driving miles south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea and approximately 1.5 miles south of the unincorporated community of Carmel Highlands on Highway 1. Most of Garrapata SP is situated on the east side of Highway 1, rising steeply from the coastal bluffs and featuring trails through scrub and grassland covered hillsides and redwood-filled canyons. Garrapata SP is located at the northern end of the Big Sur coast and features approximately four miles of scenic rocky shoreline, coves, and Garrapata Beach. The park extends along four miles of Highway 1, encompassing a total of 2,902 acres.

State Scenic Highways

The California Scenic Highway Program protects and enhances the scenic beauty of California's highways and adjacent corridors. A highway can be designated as scenic based on how much natural beauty can be seen by users of the highway, the quality of the scenic landscape, and if development impacts the experience of the view (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2023). Highway 1 runs approximately 659 miles (north-south) along most of the pacific coastline, including through Garrapata SP. Highway 1 southern terminus is at Interstate 5 in Orange County and the northern terminus is at U.S. Route 101 in Mendocino County. This portion of the highway is officially designated as a California State Scenic Highway.

Monterey County

The Big Sur Coast Land Use Plan (LUP) (County of Monterey 2016) defines the critical viewshed as everything within sight of State Highway 1 and major public viewing areas including turnouts, beaches, Garrapata Beach, and other specific locations. Portions of the front Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute that are closer to Highway 1 would be considered a critical viewshed.

4.1.1.2 Visual Character of the Project Site

The Proposed Project Site is located within the 2,902-acre Garrapata SP. The park is surrounded by sandy beaches, ocean coves, pine forests, coastal grasslands, and natural rock outcroppings. The terrain rises steeply to the east of Highway 1 where the vegetation starts as shrub and grasslands and moves to tree cover within the canyons. The portion of the park west of Highway 1 consists primarily of coastal scrub allowing clear and unobstructed ocean vistas from Highway 1 within the park.

4.1.2 Aesthetics (I) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

A scenic vista is a viewpoint that provides a distant view of highly valued natural or manufactured landscape features for the benefit of the general public. Typical scenic vistas are locations where views of rivers, ocean, hillsides, and open space areas can be obtained as well as locations where valued urban landscape features can be viewed in the distance.

As described in the Environmental Setting above, the park is located along Highway 1 overlooking the Pacific Ocean and many scenic vistas can be found along the highway. The proposed trail has a narrow profile and would be visually screened by rock outcroppings, rolling topography, vegetation, and other natural features. The Proposed Project has been designed in accordance with the DPR Trails Handbook, which outlines standards of a good trail including curvilinear alignment, full bench construction with adequate out slope, linear grades that do not exceed the maximum grade, no disruption or alteration of the hydrology or the landform, and minimal routine and cyclical maintenance. Visually speaking, with implementation of **SPR AES-1**, improvements to the trail will become lost and subordinate to anything else in this dramatically scenic area. Therefore, no long-term significant effect on scenic vistas would result from the Proposed Project.

Construction activities would require excavation of soil and removal of a limited amount of vegetation, primarily consisting of low-growing herbs and shrubs. These activities would change the close-range scenery at the Project Site. These impacts would be considered temporary and therefore a less than significant impact.

SPR AES-1 Materials used in trail construction will be native rock materials, with emphasis on aggregate material that blends with soils native to the respective turnpike locations**.**

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project is situated on the steep hillsides to the east of State Highway 1. This highway is officially designated as a California State Scenic Highway and portions of the new trail have been

identified in Monterey County's Big Sur Coast LUP (2016) as being located within a critical viewshed. The Proposed Project has been designed to avoid/reduce impacts to resources such as trees, historic resources, biological resources, and rock outcroppings. Upon completion, trail improvements will be along existing contours of hillside. Due to the slope and vegetation, it is likely that the improvements will not be visible from Highway 1 and will not alter the current view from the highway.

Highway travelers may see some construction activities and staging/storage of equipment and vehicles, particularly trail construction near the highway. These impacts, however, are considered temporary and less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

As described in Discussion (a) and (b) above, construction activities will include various treatments including graded earth and will be designed per design standards described in the DPR's Trails Manual and California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines. These design standards are intended to minimize impacts to the visual character of the area and will help blend the new features into the existing setting where possible. As with any construction project, a temporary decrease in the visual appeal of the areas immediately affected by the work being performed would occur. Revegetation of impacted areas will be completed, and debris will be removed from the site following construction, thus returning the site to pre-construction conditions. The current Rocky Ridge Trail will mostly be abandoned and will be restored to natural conditions to limit further erosion and habitat degradation. This impact is considered less than significant.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the Project create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Lighting is not an element of the Proposed Project, and all work will be conducted during daylight hours, and as such, no permanent new light sources will be introduced into the landscape. No component of the trail construction will produce a metallic shine or glare. Therefore, there will be no impact.

4.1.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR-AES-1** has been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.2 Agriculture Resources and Forestry Services

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project Site of Garrapata SP features steep hillsides covered with low growing shrubs and brush east of Highway 1.

The California Department of Conservation (DOC) has classified Important Farmland in Monterey County by the following categories:

- Prime Farmland – Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term production of agricultural crops.
- Farmland of Statewide Importance – Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or with less ability to hold and store moisture.
- Unique Farmland – Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops.
- Farmland of Local Importance – Land of importance to the local agricultural economy, as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.
- Grazing Land – Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock.
- Urban and Built-up Land – Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least one unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately six structures to a 10-acre parcel.
- Other Land – Land not included in any other mapping category is included as other land. Common examples include low-density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry, or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is also mapped as Other Land.

The Proposed Project Site does not contain and is not adjacent to any Important Farmland based on the DOC criteria (DOC 2018).

4.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources (II) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No designated agricultural lands exist on the Proposed Project Site. The Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use. Therefore, no impacts would occur to farmlands.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project Site is not zoned for agriculture use and is not under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts would occur to Williamson Act land.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project Site is not located within zoned forest land or timberland. Therefore, there will be no impact to existing zoning.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur with the implementation of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No designated agricultural lands exist on or near the Proposed Project Site. The Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland or forestland to a non-agricultural use. The Proposed Project Site is not zoned for agriculture and is not under a Williamson Act contract. No impact to agricultural and timber resources would occur with the implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.2.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.3 Air Quality

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in Monterey County. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has divided California into regional air basins according to topographic features. Monterey County is located in a region identified as the North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB). The NCCAB encompasses Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. The air basin is generally bounded by the Diablo Range to the northeast, which together with the southern portion of the Santa Cruz Mountains forms the Santa Clara Valley that extends into the northeastern tip of the NCCAB. Farther south, the Santa Clara Valley transitions into the San Benito Valley, which runs northwest–southeast and has the Gabilan Range as its western boundary. To the west of the Gabilan Range is the Salinas Valley that extends from Salinas at the northwest end to King City at the southeast end. The northwest portion of the NCCAB is dominated by

the Santa Cruz Mountains. Air quality in the NCCAB generally ranges from good to fair but continues to manage higher localized particulate matter concentrations during the winter.

Both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CARB have established ambient air quality standards for common pollutants. These ambient air quality standards are levels of contaminants representing safe levels that avoid specific adverse health effects associated with each pollutant. The ambient air quality standards cover what are called "criteria" pollutants because the health and other effects of each pollutant are described in criteria documents. The six criteria pollutants are ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), nitric oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide, and lead. Areas that meet ambient air quality standards are classified as attainment areas, while areas that do not meet these standards are classified as nonattainment areas. The portion of Monterey County encompassing the Project Site is designated as a nonattainment area for the state standards for Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns in Diameter (PM_{10}) and is in attainment for all federal criteria pollutant standards (CARB 2022).

The local air quality regulating authority in the portion of Monterey County encompassing the Project Site is the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD). The MBARD's primary responsibility is ensuring that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are attained and maintained in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. The MBARD is also responsible for adopting and enforcing rules and regulations concerning air pollutant sources, issuing permits for stationary sources of air pollutants, inspecting stationary sources of air pollutants, responding to citizen complaints, monitoring ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, awarding grants to reduce motor vehicle emissions, and conducting public education campaigns, as well as many other activities. All projects are subject to MBARD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction.

The following is a list of noteworthy MBARD rules that are required of construction activities associated with the Proposed Project:

- **Rule 402 (Nuisances).** The purpose of this rule is to prohibit emissions that may create a public nuisance. It applies to any source operation that emits or may emit air contaminants or other materials.
- **Rule 403 (Particulate Matter).** No person shall cause, let, permit, suffer or allow the emission from any heat transfer, incinerator or metal salvage operation of particles in sufficient number to cause damage to property, which particles are of sufficient size and nature to be visible individually as particles on property other than that under the control of the person responsible for the emission.
- **Rule 438 (Open Outdoor Fires).** This rule regulates the use of open burning and specifies the types of materials that may be open burned. Section 5.2 of this rule applies to the burning of trees and other vegetative (nonagricultural) material whenever the land is being developed for nonagricultural purposes. Individuals conducting burning associated with land development are required to obtain a written permit from the air district.
- **Rule 426 (Architectural Coatings).** The purpose of this rule is to limit emissions of volatile organic compounds from architectural coatings.

- **Rule 425 (Use of Cutback Asphalt).** This rule limits emissions of vapors of organic compounds from the use of cutback and emulsified asphalt. It applies to the manufacture and use of cutback, slow cure, and emulsified asphalt during paving and maintenance operations.
- **Rule 439 (Building Removals).** This rule limits particulate emissions associated with the removal and demolition of buildings.
- **Rule 207 (Review of New or Modified Sources).** The purpose of this rule is to provide a review of new or modified stationary air pollution sources to meet federal and state clean air act requirements. The rule provides mechanisms by which Authorities to Construct may be granted for stationary emissions sources without interfering with the attainment or maintenance of ambient air quality standards.

4.3.2 Air Quality (III) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

As part of its enforcement responsibilities, the USEPA requires each state with nonattainment areas to prepare and submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that demonstrates the means to attain the federal standards. The SIP must integrate federal, state, and local plan components and regulations to identify specific measures to reduce pollution in nonattainment areas, using a combination of performance standards and market-based programs. Similarly, under state law, the California Clean Air Act (CAA) requires an air quality attainment plan to be prepared for areas designated as nonattainment with regard to the NAAQS and CAAQS. Air quality attainment plans outline emissions limits and control measures to achieve and maintain these standards by the earliest practical date.

The Project Site is located within the NCCAB, which is under the jurisdiction of the MBARD. The MBARD is required, pursuant to the federal CAA, to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants for which the NCCAB is in nonattainment. In order to reduce such emissions, the MBARD drafted the 2012-2015 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The 2012-2015 AQMP establishes a program of rules and regulations directed at reducing air pollutant emissions and achieving state (California) and national air quality standards. More specifically, the 2012-2015 AQMP strives to maintain attainment of the state O_3 standard. The 2022 AQMP is a regional and multi-agency effort including the MBARD, CARB, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and the USEPA. The plan's pollutant control strategies are based on the latest scientific and technical information and planning assumptions, updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, and AMBAG's latest growth forecasts. The population projections assumed by AMBAG are used to forecast the emissions associated with growth in the region. The growth in future emissions helps to guide the AQMP's controls on stationary, area, and transportation sources of air pollution.

Projects that are not consistent with the AQMP would have a significant cumulative impact on regional air quality unless emissions are completely offset. The MBARD has developed a series of consistency determination processes for local jurisdictions to identify whether Proposed Projects are consistent with the AQMP. Specifically, the MBARD consistency determination process demonstrates whether proposed population growth associated with a proposed land use project is accounted for in the AMBAG's regional forecasts. Projects that are consistent with AMBAG's regional forecasts have been accommodated in the AQMP and therefore are consistent with the plan.

The Proposed Project is consistent with the land use designation and would not result in any changes to the area that would induce long-term population or employment growth. The Project proposes to re-route and create a new pedestrian trail in Garrapata SP. As there would be no population growth associated with the Proposed Project, the Project would remain consistent with the 2012-2015 AQMP. Furthermore, as shown in Table 4.3-1 below, the Proposed Project would not exceed applicable MBARD thresholds of significance during construction and would not lead to a substantial increase operational emissions beyond current conditions. The Project would not result in a long-term impact on the region's ability to meet state and federal air quality standards. The Project's long-term influence would also be consistent with the goals, objectives, and strategies of the MBARD's 2012-2015 AQMP.

The Project would be consistent with the emission-reduction goals of the 2012-2015 AQMP. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. If a project's individual emissions exceed its identified significance thresholds, the Project would be cumulatively considerable. Projects that do not exceed significance thresholds would not be considered cumulative considerable.

Air quality impacts were assessed in accordance with methodologies recommended by the MBARD. Where criteria air pollutant quantification was required, emissions were modeled using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2022.1. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to quantify potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. Project construction-generated air pollutant emissions were calculated using CalEEMod model defaults for Monterey County in addition to construction equipment and technique specifications from the Project proponent. As the Project is

proposing the construction of a new pedestrian trail project totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail, operational air pollutant emissions are discussed qualitatively.

4.3.2.1 Project Construction

Construction Significance Analysis

Construction-generated emissions are temporary and short-term but have the potential to represent a significant portion of a project's air quality impact. The basic sources of short-term emissions that would be generated through construction of the Proposed Project would be from excavation activities and the from the operation of the construction vehicles (i.e., trenchers, dozers). Construction activities such as excavation and grading operations, construction vehicle traffic, and wind blowing over exposed soils would generate exhaust emissions and fugitive PM emissions that affect may local air quality at various times during construction. Effects would be variable depending on the weather, soil conditions, the amount of activity taking place, and the nature of dust control efforts. It is noted that the majority of construction-related activities would be completed by hand crews with small, mechanized equipment and handheld power tools. However, in Project areas where it is possible to use heavy construction equipment, excavators and trail dozers may be utilized to restore the trails. Additionally, the Project would implement a series of SPRs and PSRs as a part of the Project's design. These include measures to reduce fugitive dust and O_3 formation and would consist of watering the construction site and unpaved roads twice a day, limiting vehicle speeds, keeping all construction equipment and engines maintained, limiting idling times, the suspension of dust inducing activities during high winds, and sweeping paved roads.

Construction-generated emissions associated with the Proposed Project were calculated using the CARB-approved CalEEMod computer program, which is designed to model emissions for land use development projects, based on typical construction requirements. See Appendix A for more information regarding the construction assumptions, including construction equipment and duration, used in this analysis.

Predicted maximum daily construction-generated emissions for the Proposed Project are summarized in Table 4.3-1. Construction-generated emissions are short-term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, but would be considered a significant air quality impact if the volume of pollutants generated exceeds the MBARD's thresholds of significance.

Table 4.3-1. Construction-Related Emissions						
Construction Year	**Pollutant (pounds per day)**					
	ROG	**NO_X**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Construction Year One	2.11	16.30	23.10	0.03	7.24	3.85
MBARD Construction Significance Thresholds	–	–	–	–	82 pounds/day	–
Exceed MBARD Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Notes: BMP = Best Management Practice; CalEEMod = California Emissions Estimator Model; CO = carbon monoxide; MBARD = Monterey Bay Air Resources District; NO_x = nitric oxides; PM_{10} = Particulate Matter Less than 10 Microns in Diameter; $PM_{2.5}$ = Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns in Diameter; ROG = Reactive Organic Gases; SO_2 = sulfur dioxide
Emissions taken of the season, summer or winter, with the highest outputs. The Project's BMPs that are implemented as a part of the Project's design have been applied in CalEEMod. The BMPs applied include watering the construction site and unpaved roads twice a day, limiting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads, sweeping paved roads.

Source: California Emissions CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.

As shown in Table 4.3-1, emissions generated during Project construction would not exceed the MBARD's construction thresholds of significance. Therefore, criteria pollutant emissions generated during Project construction would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable state ambient air quality standard, and no health effects from Project criteria pollutants would occur. This impact is less than significant.

4.3.2.2 Project Operations

Operational Significance Analysis

Operational emissions impacts are long-term air emissions impacts that are associated with any changes in permanent use of the Project Site by on-site stationery and off-site mobile sources that substantially increase emissions. The Project proposes the construction of a new pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The Proposed Project's construction would alleviate the overuse of the existing trail network in Garrapata SP and would facilitate the remediation of unsafe trails. The Project would not change the use of the Project Site or contribute to a substantial increase in visitors or operational emissions beyond past conditions. No long-term operational emission impacts would occur as a result of the Project. This is a less than significant impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Sensitive receptors are defined as facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of these sensitive receptors are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers. CARB has identified the following groups of individuals as the most likely to be affected by air pollution: the elderly over age 65, children under age 14, athletes, and persons with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are residences located north of the Project Site, approximately 1.20 miles distant.

4.3.2.3 Construction-Generated Air Contaminants

Construction-related activities would result in temporary, short-term Proposed Project-generated emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM), Reactive Organic Gases (ROG), NO_x, CO, and PM_{10} from the exhaust of off-road, diesel fuel construction equipment for site preparation (e.g., clearing, grading); soil hauling truck traffic; and other miscellaneous activities. The portion of the NCCAB which encompasses the Project Site is designated in attainment for all federal criteria pollutant standards and a nonattainment area for the state standard for PM_{10} (CARB 2022). Thus, existing PM_{10} levels in the NCCAB may be at unhealthy levels during certain periods. However, as shown in Table 4.3-1, the Project would not exceed the MBARD's significance thresholds for PM_{10} emissions, which are set to be protective of human health and account for cumulative emissions in the NCCAB.

The health effects associated with O_3 are generally associated with reduced lung function. O_3 is not emitted directly into the air but is formed through complex chemical reactions between precursor emissions of ROG and NO_x in the presence of sunlight. The reactivity of O_3 causes health problems because it damages lung tissue, reduces lung function and sensitizes the lungs to other irritants. Scientific evidence indicates that ambient levels of O_3 not only affect people with impaired respiratory systems, such as asthmatics, but healthy adults and children as well. Exposure to O_3 for several hours at relatively low concentrations has been found to significantly reduce lung function and induce respiratory inflammation in normal, healthy people during exercise. This decrease in lung function generally is accompanied by symptoms including chest pain, coughing, sneezing and pulmonary congestion.

Studies show associations between short-term O_3 exposure and non-accidental mortality, including deaths from respiratory issues. Studies also suggest long-term exposure to O_3 may increase the risk of respiratory-related deaths. The concentration of O_3 at which health effects are observed depends on an individual's sensitivity, level of exertion (i.e., breathing rate), and duration of exposure. Studies show large individual differences in the intensity of symptomatic responses, with one study finding no symptoms to the least responsive individual after a 2-hour exposure to 400 parts per billion of O_3 and a 50 percent decrement in forced airway volume in the most responsive individual. Although the results vary, evidence suggests that sensitive populations (e.g., asthmatics) may be affected on days when the 8-hour maximum O_3 concentration reaches 80 parts per billion. Because the Project would not involve construction activities that would result in substantial O_3 precursor emissions (ROG or NO_x), the Project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to regional O_3 concentrations and the associated health impacts.

CO tends to be a localized impact associated with congested intersections. In terms of adverse health effects, CO competes with oxygen, often replacing it in the blood, reducing the blood's ability to transport

oxygen to vital organs. The results of excess CO exposure can include dizziness, fatigue, and impairment of central nervous system functions. As shown above in Table 4.3-1, the Project would not involve construction activities that would result in substantial CO emissions close to any sensitive receptors. Therefore, the Project's construction is not anticipated to substantially contribute to regional concentrations of pollutants for which the area is in nonattainment and would not substantially contribute to the associated health impacts.

PM_{10} and Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Microns in Diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) contain microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Particulate matter exposure has been linked to a variety of problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing. For construction activity, DPM is the primary toxic air contaminant of concern. PM_{10} exhaust is considered a surrogate for DPM as all diesel exhaust is considered to be DPM and it contains $PM_{2.5}$ as a subset. The Project would not generate emissions of PM_{10} that would exceed the MBARD's thresholds, which are set to be protective of human health and account for cumulative emissions in the NCCAB. The increases of these pollutants generated by the Proposed Project would not on their own generate an increase in the number of days exceeding the NAAQS or CAAQS standards. Therefore, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions, when combined with the existing PM emitted regionally, would have minimal health effect on people located in the immediate vicinity of the Project Site. Additionally, the Project's PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions are not expected to cause any increase in related regional health effects from these pollutants. **SPR AIR-1** through **AIR-3** would further reduce impacts ensuring the impacts are less than significant.

In summary, Project construction would not result in a potentially significant contribution to regional concentrations of nonattainment pollutants and would not result in a significant contribution to the adverse health impacts associated with those pollutants.

4.3.2.4 Operational Air Contaminants

Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the development of any substantial sources of air toxins. There are no stationary sources associated with the operations of the Project; nor would the Project attract additional mobile sources that spend long periods queuing and idling at the site. Onsite Project emissions would not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. The Project would not have a high carcinogenic or non-carcinogenic risk during operation. Thus, there would be no impact.

Carbon Monoxide Hot Spots

It has long been recognized that CO exceedances are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at intersections. Concentrations of CO are a direct function of the number of vehicles, length of delay, and traffic flow conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, CO concentrations close to congested intersections that experience high levels of traffic and elevated background concentrations may reach unhealthy levels, affecting nearby sensitive receptors. Given the high traffic volume potential, areas of high CO concentrations, or "hot spots," are typically associated with intersections that are projected to

operate at unacceptable levels of service during the peak commute hours. It has long been recognized that CO hotspots are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at congested intersections.

The Project Site is currently a State Park which provides recreational hiking trails and lookout vistas for visitors. Once the trail rehabilitation construction is complete, the Project would not lead to a substantial increase in operational vehicle trips beyond current conditions because the amount of parking will not change. Thus, the Proposed Project would not generate traffic volumes of levels that would result in substantial concentrations of CO.

Because of these reasons, this impact is less than significant. Although no significant air quality impacts were identified for the project, the following Standard Project Requirements AIR-1 through AIR-3 (below) have been included in the project to further reduce air quality impacts.

SPR AIR-1 **Fugitive Dust and Ozone.** The following shall be conducted prior to initiation or during Project construction:

- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The MBARD's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
- All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour (mph).
- All construction-related equipment and engines will be maintained in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of CCR). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved roadways by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other Project-related activity will be promptly removed.

SPR AIR-2 **Fugitive Dust and Ozone.**

- During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with dust suppressant water to reduce dust without causing runoff.

SPR AIR-3 **Fugitive Dust and Ozone.** The following shall be conducted prior to and during Project construction:

- All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.

- All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Paved streets adjacent to the park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from Project-related activities.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 25 mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Typically, odors are regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. However, manifestations of a person's reaction to foul odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache).

With respect to odors, the human nose is the sole sensing device. The ability to detect odors varies considerably among the population and overall is quite subjective. Some individuals can smell minute quantities of specific substances; others may not have the same sensitivity but may have sensitivities to odors of other substances. In addition, people may have different reactions to the same odor; in fact, an odor that is offensive to one person (e.g., from a fast-food restaurant) may be perfectly acceptable to another. It is also important to note that an unfamiliar odor is more easily detected and is more likely to cause complaints than a familiar one. This is because of the phenomenon known as odor fatigue, in which a person can become desensitized to almost any odor and recognition only occurs with an alteration in the intensity.

Quality and intensity are two properties present in any odor. The quality of an odor indicates the nature of the smell experience. For instance, if a person describes an odor as flowery or sweet, then the person is describing the quality of the odor. Intensity refers to the strength of the odor. For example, a person may use the word "strong" to describe the intensity of an odor. Odor intensity depends on the odorant concentration in the air. When an odorous sample is progressively diluted, the odorant concentration decreases. As this occurs, the odor intensity weakens and eventually becomes so low that the detection or recognition of the odor is quite difficult. At some point during dilution, the concentration of the odorant reaches a detection threshold. An odorant concentration below the detection threshold means that the concentration in the air is not detectable by the average human.

During construction, the Proposed Project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, these emissions are short-term in nature and will rapidly dissipate and be diluted by the atmosphere downwind of the emission sources. Additionally, odors would be localized and generally confined to the construction area. Therefore, construction odors would not adversely affect a substantial number of people to odor emissions.

Typical land uses considered to be potential sources of obnoxious odorous emissions include agriculture (farming and livestock), wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting facilities, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The Proposed Project does not include any uses identified as being associated with odors. Therefore, there is no impact from the Proposed Project on odors.

4.3.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPRs AIR-1** through **AIR-3** have been applied to further reduce impacts ensuring the impacts are less than significant.

4.4 Biological Resources

At the request of DPR, ECORP conducted a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) for the Proposed Project BSA in Monterey County, California. The purpose of the assessment was to collect information on the biological resources present or with the potential to occur in the BSA, assess potential biological impacts related to Project activities, and identify PSRs to inform the Project's CEQA documentation for biological resources. The information in this section can be found in Appendix B – Biological Resources Assessment, ECORP 2024 and Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. 2023.

4.4.1 Methods

4.4.1.1 Literature Review

ECORP biologists performed a review of existing available information for the BSA. Literature sources included current and historical aerial imagery, previous biological studies conducted for the area, topographic mapping, soil survey mapping available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory mapping, USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Mapper, and other relevant literature as cited throughout this document. ECORP reviewed the following resources to identify special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented in or near the BSA:

- CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) data for the "Soberanes Point, California" 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle and the 5 surrounding USGS quadrangles including "Monterey", "Seaside", "Mount Carmel", "Big Sur", and "Point Sur" (CDFW 2023a)
- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Resource Report List for the Project (USFWS 2023)

- CNPS Rare Plant Inventory data for the "Soberanes Point, California" 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles (CNPS 2023a)
- NMFS Resources data for the "Soberanes Point, California" 7.5-minute quadrangle (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] 2023a)
- Survey of Seacliff Buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*) as Habitat for Smith's Blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*) in Garrapata SP (Tarain and Watson n.d.)
- SHA for Smith's blue butterfly and California Red Legged Frog at Garrapata SP (DPR and USFWS 2015)

The results of the database queries are provided in Appendix B. Each special-status species identified in the literature review is evaluated for its potential to occur in the BSA in Section 4 based on available information concerning species habitat requirements and distribution, occurrence data, and the findings of the site reconnaissance.

For the purposes of this assessment, special-status species are defined as plants or animals that:

- are listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA;
- are listed or candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered under the California ESA;
- meet the definitions of endangered or rare under Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines;
- are identified as a Species of Special Concern (SSC) or Watch List by the CDFW;
- are birds identified as a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) by the USFWS;
- are plants considered by the CNPS to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" or "rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere" (California Rare Plant Ranks [CRPRs] 1 and 2); plants about which more information is needed" (i.e., species with a CRPR of 3);
- are plants listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.); or
- are fully protected in California in accordance with the California Fish and Game Code, Sections 3511 (birds), 4700 (mammals), 5050 (amphibians and reptiles), and 5515 (fishes).

4.4.1.2 Site Reconnaissance

ECORP biologists Stephanie Castle and Daniel Wong conducted the site reconnaissance visit on June 14 to 16, and August 23 to 24, 2023. The biologists visually assessed the BSA while walking meandering transects through all portions of the site, using binoculars to scan inaccessible areas. The biologist(s) collected the following biological resource information:

- characteristics and approximate boundaries of vegetation communities and other land cover types;
- plant and animal species or their sign directly observed; and
- incidental observations of special habitat features such as burrows, active raptor nests, and potential bat roost sites.

The biologists qualitatively assessed and mapped vegetation communities based on dominant plant composition. Vegetation community classification was based on the classification systems presented in the Manual of California Vegetation (MCV), paying special attention to identifying those portions of the BSA with the potential to support special-status species or sensitive habitats. Data were recorded on a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, field notebooks, and maps. Photographs were taken during the survey to provide visual representation of the conditions within the BSA.

4.4.1.3 Focused Surveys

The following field surveys were conducted and technical reports prepared to assess and document biological resources within the BSA:

- Special-Status Plant Survey (Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. 2023; Appendix B)
- Sea cliff Buckwheat Mapping (Appendix B)
- BRA (ECORP 2023, Appendix B)

The botanical surveys and buckwheat mapping were conducted in accordance with guidelines promulgated by CDFW (2018), CNPS (2001), and USFWS (2000).

All observed occurrences of sea cliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium)* were recorded in one of two ways: as individual occurrences and patches, or as an absolute percent cover within the overall vegetation community. All occurrences of sea cliff buckwheat were recorded in the BSA using a post-processing capable GPS unit with sub-meter accuracy (e.g., Samsung Galaxy Tablet, Field Maps for ArcGIS application with Juniper Systems Geode submeter GPS unit with real-time correction).

4.4.2 Environmental Setting

Adjacent to California State Route 1, the BSA is located within the foothills of Garrapata SP, traversing into the California Southern Coast Ranges. Land uses within the BSA consist of recreation via public hiking trails such as Soberanes Canyon and Rocky Ridge trails. The landscape consists of steep terrain with an elevation range of approximately 100 feet along State Route 1 to approximately 1,850 feet above Mean

Sea Level (MSL) at Rocky Ridge. The average max summer temperature in the region is 67.4 degrees Fahrenheit (ºF), the average low winter is 44.7 ºF, and average annual precipitation is 20.42 inches.

The BSA is within the Central Coast subregion of the Central Western California region of the California floristic province (Jepson eFlora 2024) and is composed of a variety of vegetation communities including coastal scrub, maritime chaparral, and non-native annual grassland. Aquatic resources found in the BSA include a seasonal wetland, ephemeral drainages, and intermittent drainages.

4.4.2.1 Vegetation Communities

The following sections describe vegetation communities and land cover types observed in the BSA during the site assessment. A full list of plants observed can be found in Appendix B. The approximate extent of vegetation communities and land cover types are depicted in Figure 4 within Appendix B.

Coastal Scrub

The BSA is primarily a mix of coastal scrub habitat, which consists of diverse ranges of plant communities that thrive in areas along the coast and is often associated with perennial grasslands. Dominant species observed within these communities on the Project Site include coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* ssp. *consiguana*), coastal sage (*Artemisia californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), mission cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), sea cliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), and silver lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *albifrons*) (Sequoia 2023).

Several coastal scrub communities classified within the BSA were synonymous with vegetation alliances in the MCV, described in the sections below.

California Sagebrush – (Purple Sage) Scrub

California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub (*Artemisia californica - Salvia leucophylla* Shrubland Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by the dominance or codominance of California sagebrush and purple sage in the shrub canopy layer as described in the MCV (CNPS 2023b).

This vegetation community was interspersed throughout the BSA and was dominated by California sagebrush. Other species present included sea cliff buckwheat, silver lupine, sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), and non-native annual grasses. This vegetation community corresponds with the coastal scrub described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. (Sequoia 2023).

Coyote Brush Scrub

Coyote brush scrub (*Baccharis pilularis* Shrubland Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by the dominance or codominance of coyote brush, coffee berry (*Frangula californica*), and coast silktassel (*Garrya elliptica*) in the shrub canopy layer as described in the MCV (CNPS 2023b).

This vegetation community was widely distributed throughout the BSA and was dominated by coyote brush. Other species present included California sagebrush, sticky monkeyflower, poison oak, and non-

native annual grasses. This vegetation community corresponds with the coastal scrub described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023).

Deerweed – Silver Lupine – Yerba Santa Scrub

Deerweed – silver lupine – yerba santa scrub (*Lotus scoparius – Lupinus albifrons – Eriodictyon* spp. Shrubland Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by the dominance or codominance of various species including bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*), California yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), thickleaf yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*), or silver bush lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) in the shrub canopy layer (CNPS 2023b).

This community was widely distributed throughout the BSA and was dominated by silver bush lupine and deerweed in the shrub canopy layer. Other species observed in the shrub canopy layer include sea cliff buckwheat and coyote brush. This vegetation community corresponds with the coastal scrub described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023).

Maritime Chaparral

The BSA includes a mix of maritime chapparal, which supports diverse communities of shrubs and short-lived perennial forbs. A variety of plants creates a complex layering of understory and overstory.

Dominant plant species observed within maritime chaparral communities on the Project Site include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*), coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), purple sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), and blue bloom chaparral (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) (Sequoia 2023).

Two maritime chapparal communities classified within the BSA correspond with the vegetation alliances in the MCV, described in the sections below.

Chamise Chaparral

Chamise chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* Shrubland Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by chamise as the dominant or codominant species in the shrub canopy layer, as well as having little to no relative tree cover (CNPS 2023b).

This vegetation community was limited to a small portion of the BSA and corresponds with the maritime chaparral described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023).

Blue Bloom Chaparral

Blue bloom chaparral (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* Shrubland Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by blue blossom as the dominant or codominant species in the shrub canopy layer (CNPS 2023b).

This community is limited to a small portion of the BSA and was dominated by blue bloom and coyote brush in the shrub canopy layer. Other species observed to be present in the shrub canopy include poison oak. Blue bloom chaparral corresponds with the maritime chaparral described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023).

Wild Oats and Annual Brome Grasslands

Wild oats and annual brome grasslands (*Avena spp. – Bromus* spp. Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance) is a vegetation community defined by the dominance or codominance of slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), wild oat (*A. fatua*), purple false brome (*Brachypodium distachyon*), big quaking grass (*Briza maxima*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft brome (*B. hordeaceus*), and foxtail (*Hordeum murinum*), with other non-natives in the herbaceous cover layer (CNPS 2023b).

This vegetation alliance was widely distributed throughout the BSA and corresponds with the non-native annual grassland described during the special-status plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023).

Sea Cliff Buckwheat Mapping

Sea cliff buckwheat, a non-rare plant species, which is a common component of the vegetation communities within Garrapata SP, serves as a host plant and important food source for the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*).

Previous reports consider 1,453 acres of Garrapata SP to be suitable habitat for sea cliff buckwheat (DPR and USFWS 2015). Surveys by Tarain and Watson (n.d.) estimated sea cliff buckwheat occurs at an average of 22 percent cover in suitable habitat areas within Garrapata SP. Using the estimated 22 percent average cover of sea cliff buckwheat and 1,453 acres of suitable habitat in Garrapata State Park (DPR and USFWS 2015; Tarain and Watson n.d.), it is estimated that approximately 319.7 acres of sea cliff buckwheat occur within Garrapata SP.

As part of field reconnaissance efforts, a focused survey for sea cliff buckwheat was conducted within the BSA (Appendix B). Approximately 1.88 acres of sea cliff buckwheat was estimated to occur within the BSA. The BSA (29.70 acres) represents two percent of the total area within Garrapata SP considered suitable habitat for sea cliff buckwheat (1,453 acres), and therefore, habitat for the Smith's blue butterfly (DPR and USFWS 2015). Similarly, it is estimated that the BSA includes 0.59 percent of the total acreage of sea cliff buckwheat within Garrapata SP (1.88 acres of sea cliff buckwheat mapped in the BSA compared to 319.7 acres of sea cliff buckwheat estimated to occur in Garrapata SP).

The Proposed Project impacts to sea cliff buckwheat and Smith's blue butterfly are discussed in Section 4.4.4.

4.4.2.2 Aquatic Resources

An aquatic resources delineation of Waters of the U.S. was conducted for the BSA as per USACE protocols, using *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987), *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE 2010), and *Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in Arid West Region of the United States* (USACE 2008). A total of 0.087 acre of potential Waters of the U.S. were delineated within the BSA. Each of these features is described below, and a summary of the potential Waters of the U.S. acreages by feature is presented in Table 4.4.1 and in Figure 5 within Appendix B.

Table 4.4-1 Potential Waters of the U.S. & State	
Type	**Acreage**
Wetlands	
Ephemeral Drainage	0.056
Seasonal Wetland	0.021
Other Waters	
Intermittent Drainage	0.010
Total:	**0.087**

Notes: Acreages and linear footage represent a calculated estimation and are subject to modification following the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers verification process.
Summation of individual wetland type acreages may not equal the reported total due to error incurred by rounding.

Wetlands

Seasonal Wetland

Seasonal wetlands are ephemerally wet due to accumulation of surface runoff and rainwater within low-lying areas. Inundation periods tend to be relatively short and are commonly dominated by non-native annual and sometimes perennial hydrophytic species. One seasonal wetland (0.021 acre) was mapped at the northern extent of the BSA where the new and existing trail alignments converge. Dominant plant species found within the seasonal wetland include prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), hyssop loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), and Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*).

Other Waters

Ephemeral Drainage

Ephemeral drainages are linear features that exhibit a bed and bank and an Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). These features typically convey runoff for short periods of time, during and immediately following rain events, and are not influenced by groundwater sources at any time during the year. Seventeen ephemeral drainages (0.056 acre) were mapped within the BSA. The ephemeral drainages mapped within the BSA were somewhat sparsely vegetated (reduction in percent cover, but similar species composition to adjacent upland areas) in the central portion of the channel due to the depth and scouring effects of flowing water.

Intermittent Drainage

Intermittent drainages are linear features that exhibit a bed and bank, OHWM, and flow for weeks or months following significant precipitation events. Intermittent drainages differ from ephemeral drainages in that they flow for a longer duration and are influenced by groundwater sources. This usually results in greater quantities and duration of flow relative to ephemeral drainages. Two intermittent drainages were mapped onsite. One intermittent drainage (0.004 acre; ID-1 and ID-2) is bisected by an existing culvert,

and the other intermittent drainage (0.006 acre; ID-3) is located in the eastern portion of the BSA, near Soberanes Canyon. Intermittent drainages mapped within the BSA were somewhat sparsely vegetated with spreading rush (*Juncus patens*), Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), willow, and upland vegetation in the central portion of the channel due to the depth and scouring effects of flowing water.

California Coastal Commission Wetlands

The Project Site supports 0.087 acre of wetlands that meet the criteria for CCC wetlands. No additional one-parameter wetlands were identified in the BSA (Table 4.4-2 and Figure 6 in Appendix B).

Table 4.4-2. Potential California Coastal Commission Wetlands

Type	Acreage
Intermittent Drainage	0.010
Ephemeral Drainage	0.056
Seasonal Wetland	0.021
CCC 1-Parameter Wetlands	0.000
Total:	**0.087**

Notes: Acreages and linear footage represent a calculated estimation and are subject to modification following the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Coastal Commission verification process.
Summation of individual wetland type acreages may not equal the reported total due to error incurred by rounding.

4.4.2.3 Special-Status Species

The vegetation communities in the BSA provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species due to minimal human presence, relative inaccessibility, and connectivity to vast amounts of undeveloped lands. The coastal scrub and chaparral communities onsite likely support a diversity of vertebrates, including such reptiles and amphibians as California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*), Pacific gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer catenifer*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*); breeding and non-breeding birds, including California quail (*Callipepla californica*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*); and mammals, including coyote (*Canis latrans*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), and California vole (*Microtus californicus*). Three special status species were observed in the site reconnaissance visits, including California condor, Smith's blue butterfly, and Hutchinson's larkspur (*Delphinium hutchinsoniae*). While not as diverse as the scrub communities previously discussed, wildlife use of the grassland community onsite may include basking sites for reptiles and foraging habitat for some birds and mammals.

Table 4.4.-3 presents the full list of special-status plant and animal species identified through the literature review and site visits. For each species, the table provides the listing status, a brief description of habitat requirements and/or species ecology, a determination of the potential to occur within the BSA, and the rationale for that determination. The potential for each species to occur in the BSA was assessed using the following criteria:

- **Present** – Species was observed during the site visit or is known to occur within the BSA based on recent documented occurrences within the CNDDB or other literature.
- **Potential to Occur** – Suitable habitat (including soils and elevation requirements) occurs in the BSA and the species is known or expected to occur in the Project vicinity based on available data sources or professional knowledge/experience.
- **Low Potential to Occur** – Marginal or limited amounts of habitat occur or the species is not known to occur in the vicinity of the Project based on CNDDB records and other available information.
- **Presumed Absent at This Time** – The species was determined to have potential- or low potential to occur in the BSA, however, the species was not observed in the BSA during protocol-level surveys.
- **Absent** – No suitable habitat (including soils and elevation requirements) and the species is not known to occur within the vicinity of the Project based on CNDDB records and other documentation or determinate field surveys.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Plants					
Bristlecone fir *(Abies bracteata)*	–	–	1B.3	Broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Elevation: 600'–5,100' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Blasdale's bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*)	–	–	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, dunes, and prairie. Elevation: 0'–490' Bloom Period: May–July	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Hickman's onion *(Allium hickmanii)*	–	–	1B.2	Closed–cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 15'–655' Bloom Period: March–May	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Little Sur manzanita *(Actostaphylos edmundsii)*	–	–	1B.2	Prefers sandy areas within coastal bluff scrub and chaparral habitats. Elevation: 35'–345' Bloom Period: November–April	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB occurrence of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Hooker's manzanita *(Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *hookeri)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy soils within closed–cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 195'–1,760' Bloom Period: January–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are six CNDDB occurrences of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Toro manzanita *(Arctostaphylos montereyensis)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy areas within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 100'–2,395' Bloom Period: February–March	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Pajaro manzanita *(Arctostaphylos pajaroensis)*	–	–	1B.1	Sandy soils within chaparral. Elevation: 100'–2,495' Bloom Period: December–March	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Sandmat manzanita *(Arctostaphylos pumila)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy soils and openings within closed–cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 10'–675' Bloom Period: February–May	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are two CNDDB occurrences of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Marsh sandwort *(Arenaria paludicola)*	FE	CE	1B.1	Sandy openings in marshes and swamps. Elevation: 10'–560' Bloom Period: May–August	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Coastal dunes milk–vetch *(Astragalus tener* var. *titi)*	FE	CE	1B.1	Often mesic and often vernally mesic sites within sandy coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and mesic coastal prairie. Elevation: 5'–165' Bloom Period: March–May	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
San Luis Obispo sedge (*Carex obispoensis*)	–	–	1B.2	Closed–cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, often on serpentine or gabbro seeps, or clay soils. Elevation: 35′–2,690′ Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Pink johnny–nip *(Castilleja ambigua* var. *insalutata)*	–	–	1B.1	Coastal prairie and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0′–330′ Bloom Period: May–August	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Congdon's tarplant *(Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii)*	–	–	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland with alkaline soils. Elevation: 0′–755′ Bloom Period: May–October	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys (Appendix B).
Fort Ord spineflower *(Chorizanthe minutiflora)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy openings in maritime chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevation: 180′–490′ Bloom Period: April–July	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Monterey spineflower *(Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens)*	FT	–	1B.2	Sandy soils within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 10'–1,475' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Compact cobwebby thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *compactum*)	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 15'–490' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This variety was not observed during protocol-level plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Jolon clarkia *(Clarkia jolonensis)*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Elevation: 65'–2,165' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA, but this species was not observed during 2023 protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are three CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
San Francisco collinsia *(Collinsia multicolor)*	–	–	1B.2	Sometimes serpentine soils within closed–cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub. Elevation: 100'–900' Bloom Period: March–May	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during 2023 protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Seaside bird's–beak *(Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis)*	–	CE	1B.1	Sandy, often disturbed sites within closed–cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–1,690' Bloom Period: April–October	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during 2023 protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Tear drop moss *(Dacryophyllum falcifolium)*	–	–	1B.3	Carbonate substrates in North Coast coniferous forest. Elevation: 165'–900' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Hospital Canyon larkspur *(Delphinium californicum* ssp. *interius)*	–	–	1B.2	Openings in chaparral, mesic areas in cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 640'–3,595' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Hutchinson's larkspur *(Delphinium hutchinsoniae)*	–	–	1B.2	Broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–1,401' Bloom Period: March–June	Present. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. There are 10 CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B)).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Umbrella larkspur *(Delphinium umbraculorum*)	–	–	1B.3	Chaparral and cismontane woodland. Elevation: 1,315'–5,250' Bloom Period: April–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Tracy's eriastrum *(Eriastrum tracyi)*	–	CR	3.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 1,035'–5,840' Bloom Period: May–July	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Eastwood's goldenbush *(Ericameria fasciculata)*	–	–	1B.1	Sandy soils and openings within closed–cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 100'–900' Bloom Period: July–October	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Pinnacles buckwheat *(Eriogonum nortonii)*	–	–	1B.3	Sandy substrates in chaparral and valley and foothill grassland, often on recent burns. Elevation: 985'–3,200' Bloom Period: May–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are four CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Sand–loving wallflower *(Erysimum ammophilum)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy soils and openings within maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–195' Bloom Period: February–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Menzies' wallflower *(Erysimum menziesii)*	FE	CE	1B.1	Coastal dunes. Elevation: 0'–115' Bloom Period: March–September	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Fragrant fritillary *(Fritillaria liliacea)*	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland, often on serpentine substrates. Elevation: 10'–1,345' Bloom Period: February–April	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Monterey gilia *(Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria)*	FE	CT	1B.2	Sandy sites and openings within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–150' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Gowen cypress (*Hesperocyparis goveniana*)	FT	–	1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest and maritime chaparral. Elevation: 100'–985' Bloom Period: N/A	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*)	–	–	1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest. Elevation: 35'–100' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Kellogg's horkelia *(Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea)*	–	–	1B.1	Sandy or gravelly openings within closed–cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 35'–655' Bloom Period: April–September	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Contra Costa goldfields *(Lasthenia conjugens)*	FE	–	1B.1	Mesic sites within cismontane woodland, playas with alkaline soils, valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools. Elevation: 0'–1,540' Bloom Period: March–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Beach layia (*Layia carnosa*)	FT	CE	1B.1	Coastal dunes and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–195' Bloom Period: March–July	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Abrams' lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *abramsii*)	–	–	3.2	Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland; sometimes on serpentine substrates. Elevation: 410'–6,560' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Tidestrom's lupine *(Lupinus tidestromii)*	FE	CE	1B.1	Coastal dunes. Elevation: 0–330' Bloom Period: April–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Carmel valley bush–mallow *(Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *involucratus*)	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 100'–3,610' Bloom Period: April–October	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Arroyo Seco bush–mallow *(Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *lucianus*)	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and meadows and seeps. Elevation: 35'–3,000' Bloom Period: May–August	Presumed absent at this time. Marginal habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Carmel Valley malacothrix *(Malacothrix saxatilis* var. *arachnoidea*)	–	–	1B.2	Coastal scrub and rocky substrates in chaparral. Elevation: 80'–3,400' Bloom Period: June–December	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Marsh microseris *(Microseris paludosa)*	–	–	1B.2	Closed–cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 15'–1,165' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Northern curly–leaved monardella *(Monardella sinuata* ssp. *nigrescens)*	–	–	1B.2	Sandy soils within coastal dunes and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0'–985' Bloom Period: May–July	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Woodland woollythreads *(Monolopia gracilens)*	–	–	1B.2	Serpentine substrates in openings in broadleaf upland forest and chaparral, cismontane woodland, openings in North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 330'–3,935' Bloom Period: March–July	Absent. There is no serpentine substrate present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Dudley's lousewort *(Pedicularis dudleyi)*	–	CR	1B.2	Maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, north coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 195'–2,955' Bloom Period: April–June	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
San Benito pentachaeta *(Pentachaeta exilis ssp. aeolica)*	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 1,575'–2,805' Bloom Period: March–May	Presumed absent at this time. Marginal habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Monterey pine *(Pinus radiata)*	–	–	1B.1	Closed–cone coniferous forest and cismontane woodland. Elevation: 80'–605' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Yadon's rein orchid *(Piperia yadonii)*	FE	–	1B.1	Sandy sites within coastal bluff scrub, closed–cone coniferous forest, and maritime chaparral. Elevation: 35'–1,675' Bloom Period: May–August	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are six CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Hooked popcornflower *(Plagiobothrys uncinatus)*	–	–	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and sand areas in chaparral. Elevation: 985'–2,495' Bloom Period: April–May	Presumed absent at this time. Marginal habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*)	FE	CE	1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, vernally mesic meadows and seeps, and freshwater marshes and swamps. Elevation: 35'–490' Bloom Period: April–August	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Angel's hair lichen *(Ramalina thrausta)*	–	–	2B.1	On dead twigs and other lichens in North Coast coniferous forest. Elevation: 245'–1,410' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. Outside of known range for this species. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Pine rose (*Rosa pinetorum*)	–	–	1B.2	Closed–cone coniferous forest and cismontane woodland. Elevation: 5'–3,100' Bloom Period: May–July	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are three CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Adobe sanicle (*Sanicula maritima*)	–	CR	1B.1	Clay or serpentine soils within chaparral, coastal prairie, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 100'–785' Bloom Period: February–May	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Santa Cruz microseris *(Stebbinsoseris decipiens)*	–	–	1B.2	Open areas and sometimes on serpentine soils within broadleaf upland forest, closed–cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 35'–1,640' Bloom Period: April–May	Presumed absent at this time. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Twisted horsehair lichen (*Sulcaria spiralifera*)	–	–	1B.2	Usually on conifers within coastal dunes (San Luis Obispo County) and the immediate coast of North Coast coniferous forest. Elevation: 0'–295' Bloom Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
California screw moss (*Tortula californica*)	–	–	1B.2	Sandy soil in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 35'–4,790' Bloom Period: N/A	Presumed absent at this time. Marginal habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys (Appendix B).
Santa Cruz clover *(Trifolium buckwestiorum)*	–	–	1B.1	Gravelly sites and on the margins of broadleafed upland forest, cismontane woodland, and coastal prairie. Elevation: 345'–2,000' Bloom Period: April–October	Presumed absent at this time. Marginal habitat for this species is present in the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B). There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Saline clover *(Trifolium hydrophilum)*	–	–	1B.2	Marshes and swamps, mesic and alkaline areas in valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Elevation: 0'–985' Bloom Period: April–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Pacific Grove clover *(Trifolium polyodon)*	–	CR	1B.1	Mesic and sometimes granitic sites within closed–cone coniferous forest, coastal prairie, meadows, seeps, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 15'–1,395' Bloom Period: April–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are three CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Monterey clover *(Trifolium trichocalyx)*	FE	CE	1B.1	Burned areas, openings, and sandy sites within closed-cone coniferous forest. Elevation: 100'–1,000' Bloom Period: April–June	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. This species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).
Invertebrates					
Black abalone (Haliotis cracherodii)	FE	–	–	Found in rocky intertidal and subtidal reefs along the California and Baja California coast. Survey Period: Any Season	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)	FT	–	–	Vernal pools/wetlands. Survey Period: November–April when surface water is present.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Crotch's bumble bee *(Bombus crotchii)*	–	CC	–	Primarily nests underground in open grassland and scrub habitats from the California coast east to the Sierra Cascade and south to Mexico. Survey Period: March-September	Potential to occur. The abundant floral resources in the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Western bumble bee *(Bombus occidentalis)*	–	CC	–	Meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources. Primarily nests underground. Largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada, although rarely detected on the California coast. Survey Period: April-November	Low potential. The abundant floral resources in the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species, however the BSA occurs outside of the known current range for this species. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA from 1972.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)	FC	–	–	Overwinters along coastal California in wind-protected groves of eucalyptus, Monterey pine and cypress with nearby nectar and water sources; disperses in spring throughout California. Adults breed and lay eggs during the spring and summer, feeding on a variety of nectar sources; eggs are laid exclusively on milkweed plants.	Potential to occur. The abundant nectar and water resources in the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. However, there is no breeding or overwintering habitat present in the BSA. There are five CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*)	FE	–	–	Requires host buckwheat plants, which include coast buckwheat *Eriogonum latifolium* and sea cliff buckwheat *E. parvifolium*. Found primarily from coastal dune habitats along Monterey Bay, as well as along the Big Sur coast (USFWS 2020b). Survey Period: mid-June to early September	Present. Abundant coast buckwheat in the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species was incidentally observed during the site assessment and has been previously documented in Garrapata SP by DPR. There are 23 CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Fish					
Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)	FT	–	CDFW: SSC	Anadromous; undammed cold-water rivers having relatively deep pools with large substrates. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)	FE	–	–	Relatively still, shallow, brackish waters of Coastal lagoons, estuaries, and marshes from Tillas Slough in Del Norte County to Agua Hedionda Lagoon in northern San Diego County. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Steelhead (CA South-Central California Coast DPS) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)	FT	–	–	Fast-flowing, well-oxygenated rivers and streams. This DPS includes naturally spawned anadromous steelhead originating below natural and manufactured impassable barriers from the Pajaro River to (but not including) the Santa Maria River. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Amphibians					
California tiger salamander (Central California DPS) (*Ambystoma californiense*)	FT	CT	WL	Breeds in vernal pools and seasonal wetlands in grassland or oak woodland habitats; adults are terrestrial using underground refuges such as ground squirrel or gopher burrows. Central Valley and Inner Coast Range. Survey Period: Winter-Spring.	Absent. Suitable terrestrial refugia may be present in the BSA, however no suitable aquatic breeding habitat is present in the BSA. Nearest suitable aquatic breeding habitat is more than 2 miles from the BSA. There are five CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Foothill yellow-legged frog Southwest/South Coast Clade (*Rana boylii*)	–	CE	SSC	Partly shaded shallow streams and riffles in variety of habitats. Needs cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying and at least 15 weeks of permanent water to attain metamorphosis. Can be active all year in warmer locations; become inactive or hibernate in colder climates. Southern Coast Ranges from Monterey through Transverse Ranges and San Gabriel Mountains. Survey Period: May–October.	Low Potential to occur. The BSA contains marginal upland habitat and aquatic resources adjacent to BSA provide suitable aquatic breeding habitat. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)	FT	–	SSC	Lowlands and foothills of the northern and southern Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada. Found in deep standing or flowing water with dense shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation; requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Adults require aestivation habitat to endure summer dry down. Survey Period: January – Sept.	Low potential to occur. Aquatic resources within and adjacent to the BSA are unlikely to provide suitable aquatic breeding habitat (DPR and USFWS 2015). There are 14 CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*)	–	–	SSC	Breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams; adults are terrestrial in valley-foothill hardwood, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, chaparral, and annual grassland habitats. California Coast Ranges from Mendocino County to San Diego County and Sierra Nevada foothills. Survey Period: Winter-Spring.	Potential to occur. Aquatic resources adjacent to BSA provide suitable aquatic breeding habitat. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Reptiles					
Northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)	–	–	SSC	Requires basking sites and upland habitats up to 0.5 km from water for egg laying. Uses ponds, streams, detention basins, and irrigation ditches. Survey Period: April-September	Low potential to occur. Aquatic resources in the BSA do not provide suitable aquatic habitat for this species. Aquatic resources adjacent to the BSA provide marginally suitable habitat as Soberanes Creek is heavily shaded with limited or no basking sites. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)	–	–	SSC	The most widespread of California's *Anniella* species. Occurs in sandy or loose soils under sparse vegetation from Antioch south coastally to Ventura. Bush lupine is often an indicator plant, and two melanistic populations are known. Survey Period: Generally spring, but depends on location and conditions	Potential to Occur. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
North Pacific Ocean DPS loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)	FE	–	–	Found in U.S. coastal waters. Nests on the coasts of Japan. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)	FT	–	–	Found in fairly shallow waters (except when migrating) inside reefs, bays, and inlets. The turtles are attracted to lagoons and shoals with an abundance of marine grass and algae. Open beaches with a sloping platform and minimal disturbance are required for nesting. (USFWS 2021b). Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)	FE	–	–	Found in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Nesting beaches are primarily located in tropical latitudes. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)	FT/FE	–	–	Pelagic. Egg-laying occurs at *arribada* beaches. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Blainville's ("Coast") horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)	–	–	SSC	Formerly a wide-spread horned lizard found in a wide variety of habitats, often in lower elevation areas with sandy washes and scattered low bushes. Also occurs in Sierra Nevada foothills. Requires open areas for basking, but with bushes or grass clumps for cover, patches of loamy soil or sand for burrowing and an abundance of ants (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). Survey Period: April-October	Potential to occur. Suitable habitat for this species is present in the BSA. There is one CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Birds					
Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia)*	–	–	SSC, BCC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel. Nesting: February-August	Low potential to occur. There is marginal burrowing habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)	FT	CE	–	Breeding habitat is generally open woodland with clearings and low, dense, scrubby vegetation associated with watercourses, and includes desert riparian woodlands with willow, Fremont's cottonwood, alder, walnut, box-elder, and dense mesquite. Nests are generally found in deciduous hardwoods with thick bushes, vines, or hedgerows providing dense foliage within 10 meters (33 feet) of ground; prefer riparian patches of at least 81 hectares (200 acres) (Hughes 2020). Winters in South America. Nesting: June 15-August 15	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Black swift *(Cypseloides niger)*	–	–	BCC, SSC	In California, nests from Cascade-Sierra Nevada region south to Tulare and Mono counties; coastal ranges (Santa Cruz south to San Luis Obispo counties), San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains. Nests on ledges or shallow caves on steep rock faces, usually behind waterfalls. Winter range, unknown, but thought to be northern and western South America, and West Indies. Nesting: May-September	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Allen's hummingbird *(Selasphorus sasin)*	–	–	BCC	Breeds along narrow coastal band from SW Oregon south to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Channel Islands. Migratory subspecies winter in Mexico, and *S. s. sedentarius* on Channel Islands and coastal southern California. Breeding occurs in coastal scrub, riparian habitat, mixed evergreen or live oak woodlands. Nesting: February-June	Potential to occur. There is suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Yellow rail *(Coturnicops noveboracensis)*	–	–	BCC, SSC	Found in sedge meadows, dense stands of bulrush, high marshlands dominated by sedges and grasses (in California, found in Lassen, Plumas, Siskiyou, Modoc counties, and San Francisco Bay and Tomales Bay regions). Nesting: May-September	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*)	–	CT	CFP	Salt marsh, shallow freshwater marsh, wet meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation. In California, primarily found in coastal and Bay-Delta communities, but also in Sierran foothills (Butte, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado counties). Nesting: March-September	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Black oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*)	–	–	BCC	Nests along the Pacific Coast from Baja California to Alaska. Rocky shorelines are favored nesting habitat but may also nest on a variety of substrates ranging from mixed sand and gravel beaches to rocky headlands. Typical nesting sites include sand and pebble beaches, shell beaches, cobble beaches, gravel outwashes, exposed rocky shoreline, wave-cute platforms, and offshore boulders. Nesting: April-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Western snowy plover (Coastal population) *(Charadrius nivosus nivosus)*	FT	–	SSC	Nests on the ground, on open sandy coastal beaches and barrier islands. Nesting: March-September	Absent. There is no suitable nesting or wintering habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Black turnstone *(Arenaria melanocephala)*	–	–	BCC	Breeding range includes coastal Alaska. Wintering range is coastal southern Alaska to Mexico. Wintering habitat includes coastal habitats, including rocky shorelines, reefs, sea stacks, and headlands with rock or gravel substrates, mud and sandflats, estuaries, sandy beaches, jetties, riprap, piers, pilings, booms, and sewage treatment ponds. Migrant/Wintering in California: August-April	Absent. There is no suitable wintering habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Marbled murrelet *(Brachyramphus marmoratus)*	FT	CE	–	Nesting occurs in forested or rocky areas on islands and coastal mainland from Alaska south to Central California (Monterey County); nests in coastal forests, sea-facing talus slopes, and cliffs. Most nest in trees, with a few on the ground, under vegetation, or in cavities on rock scree slopes or cliffs. Nesting: March-October	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. Not expected to nest in Monterey County. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Tufted puffin *(Fratercula cirrhata)*	–	–	BCC, SSC	The largest breeding colonies in California are located on Farallon Islands, along Central Coast, and Castle Rock off Crescent City. Breed on steep, rocky islands and mainland cliffs. Nesting: May-October	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
California gull (nesting colony) *(Larus californicus)*	–	–	BCC, CDFW WL	Nesting occurs in the Great Basin, Great Plains, Mono Lake, and south San Francisco Bay. Breeding colonies located on islands on natural lakes, rivers, or reservoirs. Winters along Pacific Coast from southern British Columbia south to Baja California and Mexico. In California, winters along coast and inland (Central Valley, Salton Sea). Nesting: April-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
California least tern *(Sternula antillarum browni)*	FE	CE	CFP	Nests along Pacific Coast from San Francisco Bay south the Mexico; nests colonially, on sand or dried mudflats, sand or shell islands, and gravel and sand pits and rarely in agricultural fields, parking lots, airports, and flat/graveled rooftops. Nesting: April-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Ashy storm-petrel *(Hydrobates homochroa)*	–	–	BCC, SSC	Nesting habitat includes nest cavities among rocks, talus slopes on rocky offshore islands (off California coast, including Baja). Nesting: April-December	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
California brown pelican *(Pelecanus occidentalis californicus)*	De-listed	De-listed	CFP	Nests on rocky offshore islands along Pacific Coast of California south to Baja California. Winters throughout coastal California. Nesting: January-September Wintering: September-April	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
California condor *(Gymnogyps californianus)*	FE	CE	CFP	Nests on cliff ledges and rarely in large tree cavities; foraging occurs over vast expanses of coastline, grassland, meadows, savannahs. Non-migratory; can be observed during any season; nesting: eggs (late January-May), nestlings to fledge (March-December)	Present. There is suitable foraging habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. An individual was observed soaring over the Study Area during the August 24, 2023 site visit.
Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)	–	–	CFP, CDFW WL	Nesting habitat includes mountainous canyon land, rimrock terrain of open desert and grasslands, riparian, oak woodland/ savannah, and chaparral. Nesting occurs on cliff ledges, river banks, trees, and human-made structures (e.g., windmills, platforms, and transmission towers). Breeding occurs throughout California, except the immediate coast, Central Valley floor, Salton Sea region, and the Colorado River region, where they can be found during Winter. Nesting: February-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	De-listed	CE	CFP	Typically nests in forested areas near large bodies of water in the northern half of California; nest in trees and rarely on cliffs; wintering habitat includes forest and woodland communities near water bodies (e.g., rivers, lakes), wetlands, flooded agricultural fields, open grasslands. Nesting: February-September	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Nuttall's woodpecker *(Dryobates nuttallii)*	–	–	BCC	Resident from northern California south to Baja California. Nests in tree cavities in oak woodlands and riparian woodlands. Nesting: April-July	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)	–	–	CDFW WL	Found in open habitat at all elevations up to 3,350 meters (Steenhof 2020). Nests on cliffs and bluffs in arid plains and steppes; In California, nesting throughout state except northwest corner, along immediate coast, and the Central Valley floor. Winters throughout California, in open habitats, such as grasslands in Central Valley. Nesting: March-July Wintering in Central Valley: September-February	Absent. There is no suitable breeding habitat for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Olive-sided flycatcher *(Contopus cooperi)*	–	–	SSC, BCC	Nests in montane and northern coniferous forests, in forest openings, forest edges, semiopen forest stands. In California, nests in coastal forests, Cascade and Sierra Nevada region. Winters in Central to South America. Nesting: May-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Southwestern willow flycatcher *(Empidonax traillii extimus)*	FE	CE	–	Found in southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, southern Utah and Nevada, and possibly southwestern Colorado. Nesting habitat includes moist, shrubby riparian willow thickets, often with standing or running water. Winters in Central and South America. Nesting: May-August	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)	FE	CE	–	In California, breeding range includes Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties, and rarely Stanislaus and Santa Clara counties. Nesting habitat includes dense, low shrubby vegetation in riparian areas, brushy fields, young second-growth woodland, scrub oak, coastal chaparral, and mesquite brushland. Winters in southern Baja California Sur. Nesting: April 1-July 31	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*)	–	–	BCC	Nests in tree cavities within dry oak or oak-pine woodland and riparian; where oaks are absent, they nest in juniper woodland, open forests (gray, Jeffrey, Coulter, pinyon pines and Joshua tree). Nesting: March-July	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*)	–	–	BCC	Coastal sage scrub, northern coastal scrub, chaparral, dense understory of riparian woodlands, riparian scrub, coyote brush and blackberry thickets, and dense thickets in suburban parks and gardens. Nesting: March-August	Potential to occur. There is suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*)	–	–	BCC	Resident and endemic to coastal and Sierra Nevada-Cascade foothill areas of California. Nests are usually well hidden in dense shrubs, including scrub oak, California lilac, and chamise. Nesting: February-July	Potential to occur. There is suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*)	–	–	BCC	Breeds in Sierra Nevada and inner Coast Range foothills surrounding the Central Valley and the southern Coast Range to Santa Barbara County east through southern California to the Mojave Desert and Colorado Desert into the Peninsular Range. Nests in arid and open woodlands with chaparral or other brushy areas, tall annual weed fields, and a water source (e.g., small stream, pond, lake), and to a lesser extent riparian woodland, coastal scrub, evergreen forests, pinyon-juniper woodland, planted conifers, and ranches or rural residences near weedy fields and water. Nesting: March-September	Potential to occur. There is suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*)	–	–	BCC	In California, breeds in inner Coast Ranges, Transverse Range, and Peninsular Range, west slope of Sierra Nevada from Kern County to Mariposa County and mountains of southeastern California. Nesting habitat includes moderately dense tall brush on rugged mountain slopes with rocky outcrops and scattered large trees. Prefers young stands with openings. Nesting: April-August	Potential to occur. There is suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*)	–	CE	BCC	Resident coastally from Point Conception south into Baja California; coastal salt marsh. Year-round resident; nests March-August	Absent. Outside of known range for this species, there is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*)	–	–	BCC	Breeding habitat includes riparian and oak woodlands. Nesting: March-July	Low potential to occur. There is marginal nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Saltmarsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*)	–	–	BCC, SSC	Breeds in salt marshes of San Francisco Bay; winters San Francisco south along coast to San Diego County. Nesting: March-July	Absent. There is no suitable nesting habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Mammals					
Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)	–	–	SSC	Caves, mines, buildings, rock crevices, trees. Survey Period: April-September	Low potential to occur. There is marginal roosting habitat present in a very small portion of the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)	–	–	SSC	Drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils. Survey Period: Any season	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Monterey shrew (*Sorex ornatus salarius*)	–	–	SSC	Riparian, wetland and upland areas in the vicinity of the Salinas River delta. Prefers moist microhabitats, feeds on insects and other invertebrates found under logs, rock, etc.	Absent. The BSA is outside of the known range for this species. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)	FE	–	–	Distribution is widespread in subtropical, temperate, and subpolar waters. Migration patterns of this species is not well documented; they are usually observed in deep waters.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation					
Common Name (Scientific Name)	**Status**			**Habitat Description/ Species Ecology**	**Potential To Occur Onsite**
	ESA	**CESA/ NPPA**	**Other**		
Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)	FE	–	–	Winters off the Coast of Mexico and Central America. Migrates north during the summer along the west coast of the US.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus physalus*)	FE	–	–	Migrates between the Arctic Ocean and Antarctica in the summer, and breeds during the winter in tropical latitudes.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)	FE	–	–	Can be found along the west coast of the US during migration between winter and summer waters.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Killer Whale Southern Resident DPS (*Orcinus orca*)	FE	–	–	Resides within Puget Sound and the vicinity of the San Juan Islands. May expand feeding range along the Washington, Oregon, and California coasts outside the summer and fall seasons.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Sperm Whale (Physeter macrocephalus)	FE	–	–	Distribution is widespread in all oceans. Adult males often migrate through temperate waters, whereas females and calves are found in tropical waters.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
North Pacific Right Whale (*Eubalaena japonica*)	FE	–	–	Believed to spend summers as far north as the North Pacific or the Berring Sea, and migrates south as far as Baja California during the winter.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Table 4.4-3 Special-Status Species Evaluation

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status			Habitat Description/ Species Ecology	Potential To Occur Onsite
	ESA	CESA/ NPPA	Other		
Guadalupe fur-seal (Arctocephalus townsendi)	FT	CT	CFP	Found in waters off southern California and Mexican coast. Breeding grounds primarily on Guadalupe Island, Mexico, with small populations on San Benito Archipelago and San Miguel Island. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.
Steller sea lion (Eastern DPS) *(Eumetopias jubatus)*	De-listed	–	MMC	This DPS includes individuals from rookeries east of Cape Suckling, Alaska. They forage near and offshore and in both benthic and pelagic zones. They require undisturbed land habitat to rest, molt, mate, give birth and nurse pups. Survey Period: N/A	Absent. There is no suitable habitat present for this species in the BSA. There are two CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA.

Notes: BSA = Biological Study Area; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife; DPR = California Department of Parks and Recreation; CESA = California Endangered Species Act; CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank; DPS = Distinct Population Segment; ESA = Federal Endangered Species Act; NPPA = Native Plant Protection Act; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Status Codes:

FE	ESA listed, Endangered
FT	ESA listed, Threatened
FC	Candidate for ESA listing as Threatened or Endangered
BCC	USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern (USFWS 2021a)
MMC	Marine Mammal Commission Species of Special Concern
CE	CESA- or NPPA listed, Endangered
CT	CESA- or NPPA-listed, Threatened
CR	CESA- or NPPA-listed, Rare
CC	Candidate for CESA listing as Endangered or Threatened
CFP	California Fish and Game Code Fully Protected Species (§ 3511-birds, § 4700-mammals, §5050-reptiles/amphibians)
SSC	CDFW Species of Special Concern
CDFW WL	CDFW Watch List
CNDDB	Species that is tracked by CDFW's CNDDB but does not have any of the above special-status designations otherwise
1B	CRPR/Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2A	CRPR/Plants presumed extirpated in California but common elsewhere
3	CRPR/Plants About Which More Information is Needed – A Review List
0.2	Threat Rank/Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3	Threat Rank/Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)
Delisted	Formally Delisted

Special-Status Plants

59 special-status plant species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, 18 species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. 40 species were determined to be absent from the BSA at this time as they have potential to occur onsite, but were not observed during protocol level plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Appendix B).. One species was found to be present within the BSA. Brief descriptions of the 41 species that have been documented or are presumed absent at this time but have the potential to occur within the BSA are presented in the following sections.

Blasdale's Bent Grass

Blasdale's bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal and/or California ESAs and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous rhizomatous perennial that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, dunes, and prairie. Blasdale's bent grass blooms from May through July and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea level to 490 feet above MSL. Blasdale's bent grass is endemic to California; its current range consists of Mendocino, Monterey, Marin, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Blasdale's bent grass within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024). Hickman's Onion

Hickman's onion (*Allium hickmanii*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is a bulbiferous herbaceous perennial that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Hickman's onion blooms from March through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 15 to 655 feet above MSL. Hickman's onion is endemic to California; the current range of this species Is restricted to Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Hickman's onion within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Little Sur Manzanita

Little Sur manzanita (*Arctostaphylos edmundsii*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This sclerophyllous shrub blooms from November through May, commonly in sandy areas of coastal bluff scrub and chaparral. This species occurs between 35 and 345 feet above MSL. Little Sur manzanita is endemic to California; its current range includes Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There is one Little Sur manzanita CNDDB record within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Hooker's Manzanita

Hooker's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *hookeri*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 subspecies. This sclerophyllous shrub occurs in sandy soils within closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Hooker's manzanita blooms from January through June and is known to occur between 195 and 1,760 feet above MSL. Hooker's manzanita is endemic to California; its current range is restricted to Monterey and Santa Cruz counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are six Hooker's manzanita CNDDB records within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this subspecies. This subspecies is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Toro Manzanita

Toro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montereyensis*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This sclerophyllous shrub occurs in sandy soils within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Toro manzanita blooms from February through March and is known to occur between 100 and 2,395 feet above MSL. Toro manzanita is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are no Toro manzanita CNDDB records within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Pajaro Manzanita

Pajaro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 species. This sclerophyllous shrub occurs in chaparral with sandy soils. Pajaro manzanita blooms from December through March and is known to occur between 100 and 2,495 feet above MSL. Pajaro manzanita is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties, and is likely extirpated from Santa Cruz County (CNPS 2023a).

There are no Pajaro manzanita CNDDB records within 5 miles of the BSA. Blue blossom chapparal and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Sandmat Manzanita

Sandmat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pumila*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This sclerophyllous shrub occurs in sandy soils and openings within closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Sandmat manzanita blooms from February through May and is known to occur between 10 and 675 feet above MSL. Sandmat manzanita is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are two Sandmat manzanita CNDDB records within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Coastal Dunes Milk-Vetch

Coastal dunes milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *titi*) is endangered pursuant to the federal or California ESAs and is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 variety. This variety is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sand coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and mesic coastal prairie. Coastal dunes milk-vetch blooms from March through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 5 to 165 feet above MSL. Coastal dunes milk-vetch is endemic to California; its current range consists of Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Diego counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of coastal dunes milk-vetch within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

San Luis Obispo Sedge

San Luis Obispo sedge (*Carex obispoensis*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is a perennial herb that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland, often on serpentinite or gabbro seeps, or on clay soils. San Luis Obispo sedge blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 2,690 feet above MSL. San Luis Obispo sedge is endemic to California; the current range of this species consists of Monterey, San Diego, and San Luis Obispo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of San Luis Obispo sedge within 5 miles of the BSA (CDFW 2023a). The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Pink Johnny-Nip

Pink Johnny-nip (*Castilleja ambigua* var. *insalutata*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 variety. This variety is a hemiparasitic herbaceous annual that occurs in coastal prairie and coastal scrub. Pink Johnny-nip blooms from May through August and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea level to 330 feet above MSL. Pink Johnny-nip is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are two CNDDB records of pink Johnny-nip within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Fort Ord Spineflower

Fort Ord spineflower (*Chorizanthe minutiflora*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy openings in maritime chaparral and coastal scrub. Fort Ord spineflower blooms from April through July and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 180 to 490 feet above MSL. Fort Ord spineflower is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Fort Ord spineflower within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Monterey Spineflower

Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*) is listed as threatened pursuant to the federal ESA, not listed pursuant to the California ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 variety. This variety is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy soils within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Monterey spineflower blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 10 to 1,475 feet above MSL. Monterey spineflower is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Luis Obispo counties, but it is presumed extirpated from San Luis Obispo County (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of Monterey spineflower within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Compact Cobwebby Thistle

Compact cobwebby thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *compactum*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 variety. This variety is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Compact cobwebby thistle

blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 15 to 490 feet above MSL. Compact cobwebby thistle is endemic to California; its current range consists of Los Angeles, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, and Santa Barbara Counties; this species is presumed extirpated in San Francisco County (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of compact cobwebby thistle within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Jolon Clarkia

Jolon clarkia (*Clarkia jolonensis*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Jolon clarkia blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 65 to 2,165 feet above MSL. Jolon clarkia is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are three CNDDB records of compact Jolon clarkia within 5 miles of the BSA, of which one overlaps with the BSA California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

San Francisco Collinsia

San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs within sometimes serpentinite soils within closed-cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub. San Francisco collinsia blooms from March through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 100 to 900 feet above MSL. San Francisco collinsia is endemic to California; its current range includes Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of San Francisco collinsia within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Seaside Bird's-Beak

Seaside bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*) is not listed pursuant to the federal ESA, is listed as endangered pursuant to the California ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 subspecies. This subspecies is a hemiparasitic herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy, often disturbed sites within closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Seaside bird's-beak blooms from April through October and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea

level to 1,690 feet above MSL. Seaside bird's-beak is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey and Santa Barbara counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of seaside bird's-beak within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this subspecies. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Hospital Canyon Larkspur

Hospital Canyon larkspur (*Delphinium californicum* ssp. *interius*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 subspecies. This subspecies is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in openings in chaparral, mesic areas in cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Hospital Canyon larkspur blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 640 to 3,595 feet above MSL. Hospital Canyon larkspur is endemic to California; the current range of this species includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of Hospital Canyon larkspur within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this subspecies. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Hutchinson's Larkspur

Hutchinson's larkspur (*Delphinium hutchinsoniae*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Hutchinson's larkspur blooms from March through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea level to 1,400 feet above MSL. Hutchinson's larkspur is endemic to California; its current range is restricted to Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are 10 CNDDB records of Hutchinson's larkspur within 5 miles of the BSA and at least two overlap with the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and nonnative annual grassland within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species was observed in the BSA during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024). Approximately 2,000 Hutchinson's larkspur individuals were mapped within the existing and proposed new trail alignment (BSA); additional occurrences were observed outside of the existing and new trail alignment. The Project would potentially impact up to approximately 2,000 Hutchinson's larkspur plants.

Tracy's Eriastrum

Tracy's eriastrum (*Eriastrum tracyi*) is listed as rare pursuant to the California ESA, is not listed pursuant to the federal ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 3.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Tracy's eriastrum blooms from May

through July and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 1,035 to 5,840 feet above MSL. Tracy's eriastrum is endemic to California; the current range of this species includes Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Santa Clara, Shasta, Stanislaus, Tehama, Trinity, and Tulare counties. Distribution or identity is uncertain in Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Tracy's eriastrum within 5 miles of the BSA. Blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Eastwood's Goldenbush

Eastwood's goldenbush (*Ericameria fasciculata*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 species. This species is an evergreen shrub that occurs in sandy soils and openings within closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Eastwood's goldenbush blooms from July through October and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 100 to 900 feet above MSL. Eastwood's goldenbush is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of Eastwood's goldenbush within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Pinnacles Buckwheat

Pinnacles buckwheat (*Eriogonum nortonii*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.3 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy substrates in chaparral and valley and foothill grassland, often on recent burns. Pinnacles buckwheat blooms from May through August and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 985 to 3,200 feet above MSL. Pinnacles buckwheat is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey and San Benito counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are four CNDDB records of Pinnacles buckwheat within 5 miles of the BSA. The blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Sand-Loving Wallflower

Sand-loving wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in sandy soils and openings within maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Sand-loving wallflower blooms from February through June and it is known to occur at elevations ranging from 0 to 195 feet above MSL. Sand-loving wallflower is endemic to California; its current range includes Monterey, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of sand-loving wallflower that overlaps with the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Fragrant Fritillary

Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is a perennial bulbiferous herb that often occurs on serpentinite soils in cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Fragrant fritillary blooms from February through April and is known to occur from 10 to 1,345 feet above MSL. Fragrant fritillary is endemic to California; the current range of this species consists of Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, Marin, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of fragrant fritillary within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Monterey Gilia

Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*) is listed as endangered pursuant to the federal ESA, listed as threatened pursuant to the California ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 subspecies. This subspecies is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy sites and openings within maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Monterey gilia blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea level to 150 feet above MSL. Monterey gilia is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey and Santa Cruz counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Monterey gilia within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this subspecies. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Gowen Cypress

Gowen cypress (*Hesperocyparis goveniana*) is listed as threatened under the federal ESAs and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an evergreen tree that occurs in maritime chaparral and closed-cone coniferous forest. Gowen cypress occurs at elevations ranging from 100 to 985 feet above MSL. The current range of this species in California includes Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB records of Gowen cypress within 5 miles of the BSA. Blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Kellogg's Horkelia

Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 variety. This variety is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in sandy or gravelly openings within closed-cone coniferous forest, maritime chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. Kellogg's horkelia blooms from April through September and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 655 feet above MSL. Kellogg's horkelia is endemic to California; its current range consists of Alameda, Monterey, Marin, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and San Mateo counties, and is likely extirpated from Alameda, Marin, and San Francisco counties (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB record of Kellogg's horkelia within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Beach Layia

Beach layia (*Layia carnosa*) is endangered pursuant to the federal and California ESAs and is designated a CRPR 1B.1 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in coastal dunes and sandy areas of coastal scrub. Beach layia blooms from March through July and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 0 to 195 feet above MSL. Beach layia is endemic to California and Oregon; the current range of this species in California consists of Humboldt, Marin, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Barbara counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of beach layia within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Abrams' Lupin

Abrams' lupine (*Lupinus albifrons* var. *abramsii*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 3.2 variety. This variety is an herbaceous perennial that sometimes occurs in serpentinite soils in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Abrams' lupine blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 410 to 6,560 feet above MSL. Abrams' lupine is endemic to California; its current range is Contra Costa and Monterey counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Abrams' lupine within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Carmel Valley Bush-Mallow

Carmel Valley bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *involucratus*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 variety. This variety is a perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Carmel Valley bush-mallow blooms from April through October and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 100 to 3,610 feet above MSL. Carmel Valley bush-mallow is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Carmel Valley bush-mallow within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Arroyo Seco Bush-Mallow

Arroyo Seco bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *lucianus*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs, but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is a perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and meadows and seeps. Arroyo Seco bush-mallow blooms from May through August and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 15 to 3,000 feet above MSL. Arroyo Seco bush-mallow is endemic to Monterey County, California (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Arroyo Seco bush-mallow within 5 miles of the BSA. The blue bloom chaparral and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Carmel Valley Malacothrix

Carmel Valley malacothrix (*Malacothrix saxatilis* var. *arachnoidea*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 variety. This variety is an herbaceous rhizomatous perennial that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and meadows and seeps Carmel Valley malacothrix blooms from June through December and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 80 to 3,400 feet above MSL. Carmel Valley malacothrix is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Barbara counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Carmel Valley malacothrix within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this variety. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Marsh Microseris

Marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Marsh microseris

blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 15 to 1,165 feet above MSL. Marsh microseris is endemic to California; its current range consists of Mendocino, Monterey, Marin, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties. It is likely extirpated from San Francisco and San Mateo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are two CNDDB records of marsh microseris within 5 miles of the BSA (CDFW 2023a). California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Northern Curly-Leaved Monardella

Northern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *nigrescens*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This subspecies is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy soils within coastal dunes and coastal scrub. In Santa Cruz County, it also occurs in chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest. Northern curly-leaved monardella blooms from May through July and is known to occur at elevations ranging from sea level to 985 feet above MSL. Northern curly-leaved monardella is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey, Marin, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of northern curly-leaved monardella within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this subspecies. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Dudley's Lousewort

Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*) is not listed pursuant to the federal ESA, is listed as rare pursuant to the California ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Dudley's lousewort blooms from April through June and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 195 to 2,955 feet above MSL. Dudley's lousewort is endemic to California; the current range of this species consists of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Dudley's lousewort within 5 miles of the BSA. The blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequoia (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

San Benito Pentachaeta

San Benito pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta exilis* ssp. *aeolica*) is not listed pursuant to the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This subspecies is an herbaceous annual that occurs in cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. San Benito pentachaeta blooms from March through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 1,575 to 2,805 feet above MSL. San Benito

pentachaeta is endemic to California; the current range of this species consists of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of San Benito pentachaeta within 5 miles of the BSA. The wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provides marginal habitat for this subspecies. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Yadon's Rein Orchid

Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii)* is listed as endangered pursuant to the federal ESA, is not listed pursuant to the California ESA, and is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in sandy sites within coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, and maritime chaparral. Yadon's rein orchid blooms from May through August and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 1,675 feet above MSL. Yadon's rein orchid is endemic to California; its current range is restricted to Monterey County (CNPS 2023a).

There are six CNDDB records of Yadon's rein orchid within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Hooked Popcornflower

Hooked popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys uncinatus)* is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in sandy chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Hooked popcornflower blooms from April through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 985 to 2,495 feet above MSL. This species is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of hooked popcornflower within 5 miles of the BSA. Blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Hickman's Cinquefoil

Hickman's potentilla (*Potentilla hickmanii*) is endangered pursuant to the federal and California ESAs and is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, vernally mesic meadows or seeps, and freshwater marshes or swamps. Hickman's potentilla blooms from April through August and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 490 feet above MSL. This species is endemic to California; its current range is Monterey and San Mateo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Hickman's potentilla within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This

species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Santa Cruz Microseris

Santa Cruz microseris (*Stebbinsoseris decipiens*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in open areas and sometimes on serpentinite soils within broadleaved upland forest, closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Santa Cruz microseris blooms from April through May and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 1,640 feet above MSL. Santa Cruz microseris is endemic to California; its current range consists of Monterey, Marin, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Santa Cruz microseris within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

California Screw Moss

California screw moss (*Tortula californica*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs, but is designated as a CRPR 1B.2 species. This species is a moss that occurs on sandy soil in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland. California screw moss is known to occur at elevations ranging from 35 to 4,790 feet above MSL. California screw moss is endemic to California; its current range includes Kern, Los Angeles, Modoc, Monterey, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties (CNPS 2023a).

There is one CNDDB records of California screw moss within 5 miles of the BSA wild oats and annual grasslands within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Santa Cruz Clover

Santa Cruz clover (*Trifolium buckwestiorum*) is not listed pursuant to either the federal or California ESAs but is designated as a CRPR 1B.1 species. This species is an herbaceous annual that occurs in gravelly sites and on the margins of broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, and coastal prairie. Santa Cruz clover blooms from April through October and is known to occur at elevations ranging from 115 to 2,000 feet above MSL. Santa Cruz clover is endemic to California; its current range consists of Mendocino, Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties (CNPS 2023a).

There are no CNDDB records of Santa Cruz clover within 5 miles of the BSA. The sandy substrate within the BSA provides marginal habitat for this species. This species is presumed absent at this time in the BSA as it was not observed during rare plant surveys conducted by Sequioa (Sequoia 2023, 2024).

Invertebrates

Six special-status invertebrate species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, two species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. Four species were determined to have suitable habitat in the BSA, including one special-status invertebrate, which was observed and previously documented onsite (Smith's blue butterfly). Brief descriptions of the four species that have been documented or have the potential to occur within the BSA are presented in the following sections.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

The Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) is a candidate for listing as endangered under the California ESA. The historic range of the Crotch's bumble bee extends from coastal areas east to the edges of the desert in central California south to Baja California del Norte, Mexico, excluding mountainous areas. The species was historically common throughout the southern two-thirds of its range but is now largely absent from much of that area and is nearly extirpated from the center of its historic range, the Central Valley.

The Crotch's bumble bee inhabits open grassland and scrub habitats. The species visits a wide variety of flowering plants, although its very short tongue makes it best suited to forage at open flowers with short corollas (Xerxes Society 2018). Plant families most commonly associated with Crotch's bumble bee include Fabaceae, Apocynaceae, Asteraceae, Lamiaceae, and Boraginaceae. The species primarily nests underground. Little is known about overwintering sites for the species, but bumble bees generally overwinter in soft, disturbed soils or under leaf litter or other debris. The flight period for Crotch's bumble bee queens in California is from late February to late October, peaking in early April with a second pulse in July. The flight period for workers and males is California is from late March through September with peak abundance in early July.

There are no CNDDB records of Crotch's bumble bee within 5 miles of the BSA. The abundant floral resources within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. There is potential for Crotch's bumble bee to occur within the BSA.

Western Bumble Bee

The western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*) is a candidate for listing as endangered under the California ESA. The western bumble bee was once common in the western United States but is now absent across much of its historic range. The species is largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada in California although there have been a couple of observations on the Northern California coast. The species inhabits meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources, and primarily nests underground in cavities created by ground-dwelling animals although a few nests have been reported above-ground in logs or among railroad ties. Little is known about specific overwintering sites, but bumble bees generally overwinter in soft, disturbed soils or under leaf litter or other debris. The species visits a wide variety of flowering plants, but its short tongue is most suitable for foraging at open flowers with short corollas. The flight period for queens in California is from early February to late November. The

flight period for workers and males in California is from early April to early November. Significant threats are posed to the survival of this species by modification or destruction of its habitat, overexploitation, competition, disease, pesticide use, population dynamics and structure, and global climate change.

There is one historical CNDDB record of western bumble bee within 5 miles of the BSA from 1972. The abundant floral resources within the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species, however the BSA is outside of the known current range for this species. There is very low potential for western bumble bee to occur within the BSA.

Monarch Butterly

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a candidate for listing under the federal ESA. This butterfly occurs throughout a variety of habitats and requires blooming nectar resources for adults to feed on during breeding, migration, and milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) for oviposition and larval feeding. During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant (primarily *Asclepias* spp.). Larvae emerge after 2 to 5 days and then develop through five larval instars over a period of 9 to 18 days, feeding on milkweed and sequestering toxic cardenolides as a defense against predators. The larvae then pupate into chrysalis before emerging 6 to 14 days later as an adult butterfly. Multiple generations of monarchs are produced during the breeding season, with most adult butterflies living approximately 2 to 5 weeks. Overwintering adults enter reproductive diapause and live 6 to 9 months.

In many regions where monarchs are present, monarchs breed year-round. Individual monarchs in temperate climates, such as eastern and western North America, undergo long-distance migration. Monarchs may use a variety of roosting trees along fall migration routes. Migratory individuals of eastern and western North America require a specific microclimate at overwintering sites that provides protection from the elements and moderate temperatures. Migratory monarchs in the western population primarily overwinter in groves of a variety of tree species along the coast of California and Baja California Study Area.

There are five CNDDB records of monarch butterfly within 5 miles of the BSA. The abundant nectar and water resources within the BSA provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. No breeding or overwintering habitat is present in the BSA. There is potential for monarch butterfly to occur within the BSA.

Smith's Blue Butterfly

Smith's blue butterfly (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*) is an endemic species in California and is listed as endangered under the federal ESA. The lifecycle of Smith's blue butterfly is entirely dependent on the occurrence of its host plant species, sea cliff buckwheat or coast buckwheat (*E. latifolium*) (USFWS 2020b). Upon listing in 1976, the cause for decline in Smith's blue butterfly habitat was associated with highway development and the spread of the invasive iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) in the coastal dune habitats along Monterey Bay and south into Big Sur. Development continues to be an existing threat to Smith's blue butterfly habitat, however grazing and factors related to climate change is considered to be the existing threat for this species (USFWS 2020b).

There are 23 CNDDB records of Smith's blue butterfly within 5 miles of the BSA (CDFW 2023a). The abundant sea cliff buckwheat within the BSA provides suitable habitat for this species. Smith's blue butterfly has been previously documented in the BSA by DPR and one individual was incidentally observed foraging in the BSA during the site reconnaissance conducted by ECORP biologists. Smith's blue butterfly is present within the BSA.

Fish

Three special-status fish species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, all three species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. No additional discussion of these species is presented for this Project.

Amphibians

Four special-status amphibian species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, one species was determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. Three species were determined to have suitable habitat in the BSA. Brief descriptions of the four species that have the potential to occur within the BSA are presented in the following sections.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

The foothill yellow-legged (*Rana boylii*) frog occurs in the Coast Ranges, from the Oregon border south to the Transverse Mountains in Los Angeles County, west of the Cascade crest in most of Northern California, and in the Sierra Nevada foothills south to Kern County, from sea level to 6,000 feet above MSL. Six clades are recognized. The Southwest/South Coast clade is listed as endangered pursuant to the federal and California ESAs. Foothill yellow-legged frogs occupy rocky streams in valley-foothill hardwood, valley-foothill hardwood-conifer, valley-foothill riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, and wet meadow plant communities. They are rarely found far from water and will often dive into water to take refuge under rocks or sediment when disturbed.

There are two CNDDB records of foothill yellow-legged frog within 5 miles of the BSA. The wetland and ephemeral and intermittent drainages in the BSA do not represent suitable aquatic breeding habitat. However, suitable breeding habitat (i.e., the perennial Soberanes Creek) is located approximately 70 from the southernmost portion of the BSA. There is low potential for foothill yellow-legged frog to occur within the BSA.

California Red-Legged Frog

The CRLF (*Rana draytonii*) is listed as threatened pursuant to the federal ESA and is a California SSC. The current range and abundance of CRLF is greatly reduced from historic levels, with most remaining populations occurring along the coast from Marin County to Ventura County and in blue oak woodland, foothill pine/oak, and riparian deciduous forests in the foothills of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada.

Breeding habitat includes coastal lagoons, marshes, springs, permanent and semi-permanent natural ponds, and ponded and backwater portions of streams. Creeks and ponds with dense growths of woody riparian vegetation, especially willows (*Salix* spp.) are preferred (Hayes and Jennings 1988). Adult CRLFs use dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation near deep [≥ 0.6 to 0.9 m (2 to 3 feet)], still or slow-moving water, especially where dense stands of overhanging willow and an intermixed fringe of cattail (*Typha* sp.) occur adjacent to open water. CRLFs breed from November through April, and larvae generally metamorphose by mid to late summer. Upland and riparian areas provide important sheltering habitat during summer when CRLFs aestivate in dense vegetation, burrows, and leaf litter.

There is no designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog in the BSA. Designated critical habitat for California red legged frog is approximately 1.3 miles to the east of the BSA.

There are 14 CNDDB records of California red-legged frog within 5 miles of the BSA. Because Soberanes Creek (approximately 70 feet from the southernmost portion of the BSA) and other creeks in the vicinity of the BSA experience high velocity flows during the CRLF breeding season, they are unlikely to support breeding habitat for CRLF. The aquatic resources within the BSA are likely too ephemeral and too shallow to support breeding for CRLF. There is low potential for terrestrial California red-legged frog adults to occur within the BSA.

Coast Range Newt

The Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*) is not listed pursuant to federal or state ESA but is a California SSC. This species occurs from near Laytonville in Mendocino County, south through the Coast Ranges to San Diego County, with isolated populations occurring in the Sierra Nevada from Tulare County south to Kern County. This species occurs from sea level to approximately 9,000 feet at MSL. Once one of the most abundant amphibians in the state, approximately one third of known localities in Southern California have been extirpated and remaining populations are highly fragmented.

Coast Range newt populations from Monterey County south occur in oak woodlands, chaparral, and open grasslands. They breed in seasonal or permanent streams and lay eggs attached to the undersides of rocks in in-stream pools and runs. Resultant larvae transform to terrestrial juveniles by late summer or fall, although some may overwinter.

There are two CNDDB records of Coast Range newt within 5 miles of the BSA. The aquatic resources approximately 70 feet outside of the southernmost portion of the BSA provide suitable breeding habitat for this species and adults may occur in upland areas of the BSA adjacent to Soberanes Creek. There is potential for Coast Range newt to occur within the BSA.

Reptiles

Seven special-status reptile species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, five species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. Two species were determined to have suitable habitat in the BSA. Brief descriptions of the two species that have the potential to occur within the BSA are presented in the following sections.

Northern California Legless Lizard

The Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*) is not listed under the California or federal ESAs, though they are considered an SSC. The Northern California legless lizard has the largest range of all California *Anniella,* ranging from sites in and around Antioch, in the east bay, and south to northern San Luis Obispo County. Two disjunct segments of this species range occur: one in the eastern foothills of Tulare and Fresno counties, and another at the western edge of the Antelope Valley in Kern and Los Angeles counties. This species can be found in oak woodland, chaparral, riparian areas, oak-pine associations, and desert scrub. They require loose soil which may be composed of sand, loam, alluvium, humus, or leaf litter. Adequate soil moisture, warmth, and ground cover objects such as rocks and logs are also required habitat components.

There are two CNDDB records of Northern California legless lizard within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral in the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. There is potential for Northern California legless lizard to occur within the BSA.

Blainville's Horned Lizard

Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*) is not listed under the federal or state ESA but is considered a California SSC. This species is easily identifiable from many other lizards in California. Like all horned lizards, it is flattened dorsoventrally and possesses enlarged scales along the back of the head that resemble horns. This species can be distinguished from the desert horned lizard, a species with which it shares only a narrow portion of its range, by a double row of pointed fringe scales. This diurnal species can occur within a variety of habitats including scrubland, annual grassland, valley-foothill woodlands and coniferous forests, though it is most common along lowland desert sandy washes and chaparral. In the Central Valley, the species ranges from southern Tehama County southward. In the Sierra Nevada it occurs from Butte County south to Tulare County, and in the Coast Ranges it occurs from Sonoma County south into Baja California. It occurs from sea level to 8,000 feet above MSL.

There is one CNDDB record of Blainville's horned lizard within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral in the BSA provide suitable habitat for this species. There is potential for Blainville's horned lizard to occur within the BSA.

Birds

Thirty-one special-status invertebrate species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, 23 species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. Eight species were determined to have suitable habitat in the BSA, including California condor, which was incidentally observed soaring over the BSA during the survey. Brief descriptions of the eight species that have been documented or have the potential to occur within the BSA are presented in the following sections.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESAs; however, it is designated as a BCC by the USFWS and an SSC by the CDFW. Burrowing owls inhabit dry open rolling hills, grasslands, desert floors, and open bare ground with gullies and arroyos. They can also inhabit developed areas such as golf courses, cemeteries, roadsides within cities, airports, vacant lots in residential areas, school campuses, and fairgrounds. This species typically uses burrows created by fossorial mammals, most notably the California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) but may also use manufactured structures such as concrete culverts or pipes; concrete, asphalt, or wood debris piles; or openings beneath concrete or asphalt pavement. The breeding season typically occurs between February 1 and August 31.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. No ground squirrel burrows were observed during the site assessment, however California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands within the BSA may provide marginal wintering habitat for this species. There is low potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

Allen's Hummingbird

The Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) is not listed and protected under either the federal or California ESAs; however, it is considered a BCC according to the USFWS. Allen's hummingbirds breed along the Pacific Coast from Oregon to Southern California. Male breeding territories are located in open areas of coastal scrub or riparian vegetation, and females select nest sites in densely vegetated areas with some tree cover such as mixed evergreen, Douglas fir, redwood and Bishop pine forests, riparian woodlands, eucalyptus and cypress groves, live oak woodlands, and coastal scrub. Nesting occurs from February through June.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub and coyote brush scrub within the BSA provides suitable nesting habitat for this species. There is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

California Condor

The California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is listed as endangered under the federal and California ESAs. California condor is also considered fully protected in California in accordance with the California Fish and Game Code, Sections 3511. California condor are permanent residents of the semi-arid, rugged mountain ranges surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the Coast ranges from Santa Clara County south to Los Angeles County, the Transverse Ranges, Tehachapi Mountains, Mount Pinos, and Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. California condor nest in ledges or cavities on cliffs and are sometimes found nesting in large trees and cavities in trunks of giant sequoia redwood trees. Condors are strict scavengers, commonly foraging in vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral, with cliffs, large trees, and snags for roosting.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. The coastal scrub and wild oats and annual bromegrass grasslands in the BSA provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. The BSA does

not support suitable nesting or roosting habitat for this species but does provide suitable foraging habitat. An individual condor was observed flying overhead the BSA during site assessment. There is potential for this species to forage within the BSA.

Wrentit

The wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*) is not listed in accordance with either the California or federal ESAs but is designated as a BCC by the USFWS. Wrentit are a sedentary resident along the west coast of North America from the Columbia River south to Baja California. Wrentit are found in coastal sage scrub, northern coastal scrub, and coastal hard and montane chaparral, and breed in the dense understory of valley oak riparian, Douglas fir and redwood forests, early successional forests, riparian scrub, coyote bush, blackberry thickets, suburban parks, and larger gardens. Nesting occurs from March through August.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. The California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral in the BSA provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. There is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

California Thrasher

The California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) is not listed and protected under either federal or California ESAs; however, it is considered a BCC according to the USFWS. In Northern California, the California thrasher is a nonmigratory resident from Humboldt, Trinity, Siskiyou, and Mendocino counties south in the Coast Ranges and on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada; and on foothill slopes both east and west of the Central Valley, but sporadic on valley floor. They are found in chaparral, riparian, and oak woodlands with dense understory. California thrasher breeding season is from January to July.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, and chamise chaparral within the BSA provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. There is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

Lawrence's Goldfinch

The Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESAs but is currently a BCC according to the USFWS. Lawrence's goldfinches breed west of the Sierra Nevada-Cascade axis from Tehama, Shasta, and Trinity counties south into the foothills surrounding the Central Valley to Kern County; and on the Coast Range from Contra Costa County to Santa Barbara County. Lawrence's goldfinches nest in arid woodlands usually with brushy areas, tall annual weeds, and a local water source. Nesting occurs during March through September.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. California sagebrush – (purple sage) scrub, coyote brush scrub, blue bloom chaparral, chamise chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands in the BSA provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. There is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

Black-Chinned Sparrow

The black-chinned sparrow (*Spizella atrogularis*) is not listed and protected under either state or federal ESAs but are considered a USFWS BCC. In California, black-chinned sparrows breed locally in the inner northern Coast Ranges, Transverse Range, Peninsular Range, western slopes of the Sierra Nevada, irregularly in Tehama County and locally in southeast California. Breeding habitat includes arid brushland on rugged mountain slopes from sea level to 2,700 meters. In Northern California, nesting habitat includes chamise-dominant chaparral mixed with ceanothus, manzanita, and other shrubs; shrub-dominant, clear-cut pine sites before pines outgrow shrubs; and wedgeleaf ceanothus, birchleaf mountain mahogany, and white oak. Breeding takes place from April through August.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. The coastal bluff scrub and maritime chaparral within the BSA provide suitable nesting habitat for this species. There is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

Bullock's Oriole

The Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESAs but is currently a BCC according to the USFWS. In California, Bullock's orioles are found throughout the state except the higher elevations of mountain ranges and the eastern deserts. They are found in riparian and oak woodlands where nests are built in deciduous trees, but may also use orchards, conifers, and eucalyptus trees. Nesting occurs from March through July.

There are no CNDDB records of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. Blue bloom chaparral and chamise chaparral within the BSA provides marginal nesting habitat for this species. There is low potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

Mammals

Twelve special-status mammal species were identified as having the potential to occur within the region based on the literature review and the results of the field assessment (Table 4.4-3). However, upon further analysis, eleven species were determined to be absent from the BSA due to the lack of suitable habitat or being outside of the known range. One species was determined to have suitable habitat in the BSA. A brief description of the mammal species that has the potential to occur within the BSA is presented in the following section.

Townsend's Big-Eared Bat

The Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) is not listed pursuant to either the California or federal ESAs; however, this species is considered an SSC by CDFW. Townsend's big-eared bat is a fairly large bat with prominent bilateral nose lumps and large rabbit-like ears. This species occurs throughout the west and ranges from the southern portion of British Columbia south along the Pacific coast to central Mexico and east into the Great Plains. This species has been reported from a wide variety of habitat types and elevations from sea level to 10,827 feet above MSL. The species occupies coniferous forests, mixed meso-phytic forests, deserts, native prairies, riparian communities, active agricultural areas, and coastal habitats. Its distribution is strongly associated with the availability of caves and cave-like roosting habitat

including abandoned mines, buildings, bridges, rock crevices, and hollow trees. This species is readily detectable when roosting due to their habit of roosting pendant-like on open surfaces. Townsend's big-eared bat is a moth specialist with more than 90 percent of its diet composed of lepidopterans. Foraging habitats are generally edge habitats along streams adjacent to and within a variety of wooded habitats. This species often travels long distances when foraging and large home ranges have been documented in California.

There is one CNDDB record of this species within 5 miles of the BSA. The BSA provides a small amount of marginal nesting habitat for this species (crevices in rocky outcrops). There is low potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

4.4.3 Regulatory Setting

4.4.3.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA protects plants and animals that are listed as endangered or threatened by the USFWS or the NMFS. Section 9 of the ESA prohibits the taking of listed wildlife, where take is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct" (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.3). For plants, the ESA prohibits removing or possessing any listed plant on federal land, maliciously damaging or destroying any listed plant in any area, or removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any such species in knowing violation of state law (16 United States Code [USC] 1538). Under Section 7 of ESA, federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS if their actions, including permit approvals or funding, could adversely affect a listed (or proposed) species (including plants) or its designated Critical Habitat. Through consultation and the issuance of a Biological Opinion, the USFWS may issue an incidental take statement allowing take of a listed species that is incidental to an otherwise authorized activity provided the activity will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10 of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits where no other federal actions are necessary provided a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is developed.

Safe Harbor Agreement

An SHA is a voluntary agreement where private or non-federal property owners whose actions contribute to the recovery of a species listed as endangered or threatened under the federal ESA. This agreement is developed between the cooperating private or non-federal property owner and the USFWS or the NOAA, depending on the target species covered under the agreement. Agreements are developed with the understanding that actions taken by the qualifying landowner under the SHA provide a net conservation benefit contributing to the recovery of the target specie(s) in the agreement. If qualifying landowners implement management or conservation actions described in the SHA, they are provided incidental take coverage of covered species during management and conservation activities as outlined in the Agreement. Additionally, the agreements provide assurances from the USFWS that the USFWS will not require any additional or different management activities by the landowner without their consent. At the end of the agreement term, landowners have the ability to return the enrolled property to baseline conditions defined in the SHA and are protected from potential take associated with reversion of the enrolled property to baseline conditions.

DPR has an existing SHA to restore, enhance, and maintain habitat for the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly and the federally threatened California red-legged frog (DPR and USFWS 2015). The SHA covers the entirety of Garrapata SP, including the BSA. Under the agreement, the Baseline Area for Smith's blue butterfly include the extent of sea cliff buckwheat within the park, which was estimated as 1,453.58 acres of varying densities of sea cliff buckwheat throughout the park when the SHA was enacted (DPR and USFWS 2015). The Baseline Area for CRLF includes the current length of suitable aquatic stream habitat for the species within the park, multiplied by the width of the adjacent riparian and wetland vegetation (DPR and USFWS 2015).

Critical Habitat

Critical Habitat is defined in Section 3 of ESA as:

1. the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the ESA, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection; and

2. specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

For inclusion in a Critical Habitat designation, habitat within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it was listed must first have features that are essential to the conservation of the species. Critical habitat designations identify, to the extent known and using the best scientific data available, habitat areas that provide essential life cycle needs of the species (i.e., areas on which the primary constituent elements are found). Primary constituent elements are the physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Space for individual and population growth and for normal behavior
- Food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements
- Cover or shelter
- Sites for breeding, reproduction, or rearing (or development) of offspring
- Habitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historic, geographical, and ecological distributions of a species

Excluded essential habitat is defined as areas that were found to be essential habitat for the survival of a species and assumed to contain at least one of the primary constituent elements for the species but were excluded from the Critical Habitat designation. The USFWS has stated that any action within the excluded essential habitat that triggers a federal nexus will be required to undergo the Section 7(a)(1) process, and the species covered under the specific critical habitat designation would be afforded protection under Section 7(a)(2) of ESA.

There is no designated critical habitat (NOAA 2023a; USFWS 2023) or essential fish habitat (NOAA 2023b) mapped within the BSA.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements international treaties between the United States and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. The protections of the MBTA extend to disturbances that result in abandonment of a nest with eggs or young. The USFWS may issue permits to qualified applicants as authorized by the MBTA for the following types of activities: falconry, raptor propagation, scientific collecting, special purposes (rehabilitation, education, migratory game bird propagation, and salvage), take of depredating birds, taxidermy, and waterfowl sale and disposal. The regulations governing migratory bird permits can be found in 50 CFR part 13 General Permit Procedures and 50 CFR part 21 Migratory Bird Permits.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (as amended) provides protection for the bald eagle and golden eagle by prohibiting the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter, transport, export or import, of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg, unless allowed by permit (16 USC 668[a]; 50 CFR 22). The USFWS may authorize take of bald eagles and golden eagles for activities where the take is associated with, but not the purpose of, the activity and cannot practicably be avoided (50 CFR 22.26).

USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern

The 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act mandates the USFWS "identify species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under ESA." To meet this requirement, the USFWS published a list of BCCs (USFWS 2021a) for the U.S. The list identifies the migratory and nonmigratory bird species (beyond those already designated as federally threatened or endangered) that represent USFWS' highest conservation priorities. Depending on the policy of the lead agency, projects that result in substantial impacts to BCC may be considered significant under CEQA.

Magnuson-Stevens Act

EFH was defined by the U.S. Congress in the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or Magnuson-Stevens Act, as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity." Implementing regulations clarified that waters include all aquatic areas and their physical, chemical, and biological properties; substrate includes the associated biological communities that make these areas suitable for fish habitats, and the description and identification of EFH should include habitats used at any time during the species' life cycle. EFH includes all types of aquatic habitat, such as wetlands, coral reefs, sand, seagrasses, and rivers.

Federal Clean Water Act

The purpose of the federal CWA is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." Section 404 of the CWA prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U.S. without a permit from the USACE. The definition of Waters of the U.S. includes rivers, streams, estuaries, the territorial seas, ponds, lakes, and wetlands. Wetlands are defined as those areas:

> …that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (33 CFR 328.3 7[b]).

The USEPA also has authority over wetlands and may override a USACE permit.

Substantial impacts to wetlands may require an individual permit. Projects that only minimally affect wetlands may meet the conditions of one of the Nationwide Permits. A Water Quality Certification or waiver pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA is required for Section 404 permit actions; this certification or waiver is issued by the State or RWQCB.

4.4.3.2 State

California Fish and Game Code

The California ESA (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2050-2116) generally parallels the main provisions of the federal ESA, but unlike its federal counterpart, the California ESA applies the take prohibitions to species proposed for listing (called *candidates* by the state). Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking, possession, purchase, sale, and import or export of endangered, threatened, or candidate species, unless otherwise authorized by permit or in the regulations. *Take* is defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." Section 2081 allows CDFW to authorize incidental take permits if species-specific minimization and avoidance measures are incorporated to fully mitigate the impacts of the Project.

Fully Protected Species

The State of California first began to designate species as *fully protected* prior to the creation of the federal and California ESAs. Lists of fully protected species were initially developed to provide protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction and included fish, amphibians and reptiles, birds, and mammals. Most fully protected species have since been listed as threatened or endangered under the state and/or federal ESAs. Previously, the regulations that implement the Fully Protected Species Statute (California Fish and Game Code Sections 4700 for mammals, 3511 for birds, 5050 for reptiles and amphibians, and 5515 for fishes) provided that fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time. However, on July 10, 2023, Senate Bill (SB) 147 was signed into law, authorizing CDFW to issue take permits under the California ESA for fully protected species for qualifying projects through 2033. Qualifying projects include:

- a maintenance, repair, or improvement project to the State Water Project, including existing infrastructure, undertaken by the Department of Water Resources;
- a maintenance, repair, or improvement project to critical regional or local water agency infrastructure;
- a transportation project, including any associated habitat connectivity and wildlife crossing project, undertaken by a state, regional, or local agency, which does not increase highway or street capacity for automobile or truck travel;
- a wind project and any appurtenant infrastructure improvement, and any associated electric transmission project carrying electric power from a facility that is located in the State to a point of junction with any California based balancing authority; or
- a solar photovoltaic project and any appurtenant infrastructure improvement, and any associated electric transmission project carrying electric power from a facility that is located in the State to a point of junction with any California-based balancing authority.

CDFW may also issue licenses or permits for take of these species for necessary scientific research or live capture and relocation and may allow incidental take for lawful activities carried out under an approved Natural Community Conservation Plan within which such species are covered.

Native Plant Protection Act

The NPPA of 1977 was created with the intent to "preserve, protect and enhance rare and endangered plants in this State." The NPPA is administered by CDFW and provided in California Fish and Game Code Sections 1900-1913. The Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority to designate native plants as *endangered* or *rare* and to protect endangered and rare plants from take. The California ESA of 1984 (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2050-2116) provided further protection for rare and endangered plant species, but the NPPA remains part of the California Fish and Game Code.

California Fish and Game Code Special Protections for Birds

Sections 3503, 3513, and 3800 of the California Fish and Game Code specifically protect birds. Section 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird. Subsection 3503.5 prohibits the take, possession, or destruction of any birds in the orders Strigiformes (owls) or Falconiformes (hawks and eagles), as well as their nests and eggs. Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird as designated in the MBTA. Section 3800 states that, with limited exceptions, it is unlawful to take any nongame bird, defined as all birds occurring naturally in California that are not resident game birds, migratory game birds, or fully protected birds. These provisions, along with the federal MBTA, serve to protect all nongame birds and their nests and eggs, except as otherwise provided in the code.

Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements

Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code requires that a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration be submitted to CDFW for "any activity that may substantially divert or obstruct the natural

flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake." The notification must incorporate proposed measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. CDFW may suggest additional protective measures during their review. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) is the final proposal mutually agreed upon by CDFW and the applicant. Projects that require an LSAA often also require a permit from the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. The conditions of the Section 404 permit and the LSAA frequently overlap in these instances.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and RWQCB implement water quality regulations under the federal CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. These regulations require compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), including compliance with the California Storm Water NPDES General Construction Permit for discharges of storm water runoff associated with construction activities. General Construction Permits for projects that disturb 1 or more acres of land require development and implementation of a SWPPP. Under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, the SWRCB and RWQCB also regulate actions that would involve "discharging waste, or proposing to discharge waste, within any region that could affect the water of the state" (Water Code 13260[a]). Waters of the State are defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state" (Water Code 13050[e]). The SWRCB and RWQCB regulate all such activities, as well as dredging, filling, or discharging materials into Waters of the State that are not regulated by the USACE due to a lack of connectivity with a navigable water body. The SWRCB and RWQCB may require issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for these activities.

California Coastal Act

The CCC regulates development activities within the coastal zone pursuant to the California Coastal Act of 1976 (CCA). In general, the coastal zone is defined as the area that extends three miles seaward and approximately 1,000 yards inland. The California State Legislature finds and declares that the basic goals of the CCA are to:

a) protect, maintain, and where feasible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the coastal zone environment and its natural and artificial resources;

b) assure orderly, balanced utilization and conservation of coastal zone resources taking into account the social and economic needs of the people of the State;

c) maximize public access to and along the coast and maximize public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone consistent with sound resources conservation principles and constitutionally protected rights of private property owners;

d) assure priority for coastal-dependent and coastal-related development over other development on the coast; and

e) encourage state and local initiatives and cooperation in preparing procedures to implement coordinated planning and development for mutually beneficial uses, including educational uses, in the coastal zone.

Section 30231 of the CCA requires the maintenance and restoration (if feasible) of the biological productivity and quality of wetlands appropriate to maintain optimum populations of marine organisms and for the protection of human health.

Section 30233 of the CCA limits the filling of wetlands to identified high priority uses, including certain boating facility, public recreational piers, restoration, nature study, and incidental public services. Any wetland fill must be avoided unless there is no feasible environmentally damaging alternative, and authorized fill must be fully mitigated.

Section 30240 of the CCA requires Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs) to be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on those resources shall be allowed within those areas. An ESHA is defined as any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments (PRC § 30107.5). As such, projects requiring a coastal development permit are required to identify areas that may qualify as ESHAs and the CCC must determine whether the Project violates the ESHA requirements of the Coastal Act.

California Coastal Act One-Parameter Wetland Definition

Section 30121 of the CCA defines the term "wetland" as:

> Lands within the coastal zone which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fens.

The CCC's regulations (CCR Title 14) establish a one-parameter definition that only requires evidence of a single parameter to establish wetland conditions:

Wetland shall be defined as land where the water table is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to promote the formation of hydric soils or to support the growth of hydrophytes, and shall also include those types of wetlands where vegetation is lacking and soil is poorly developed or absent as a result of frequent and drastic fluctuations of surface water levels, wave action, water flow, turbidity or high concentrations of salts or other substances in the substrate. Such Wetlands can be recognized by the presence of surface water or saturated substrate at some time during each year and their location within, or adjacent to, vegetated wetlands or deep-water habitats. (14 CCR Section 13577).

California Environmental Quality Act

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15380, a species not protected on a federal or state list may be considered rare or endangered if the species meets certain specified criteria. These criteria follow the definitions in the federal and California ESAs, and Sections 1900-1913 of the California Fish and Game Code, which deal with rare or endangered plants or animals. Section 15380 was included in the CEQA Guidelines primarily to deal with situations where a project under review may have a significant effect on a species that has not yet been listed by either the USFWS or CDFW.

California Environmental Quality Act Significance Criteria

Sections 15063-15065 of the CEQA Guidelines address how an impact is identified as significant. Generally, impacts to listed (i.e., rare, threatened, or endangered) species are considered significant. Assessment of *impact significance* to populations of non-listed species (e.g., SSC) usually considers the proportion of the species' range that will be affected by a project, impacts to habitat, and the regional and population level effects.

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds that the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the expanded IS checklist contained in Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines. Pursuant to CEQA Appendix F, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if the Project would:

- 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 CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS;
- have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected Waters of the U.S. including wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- 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;
- conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

An evaluation of whether an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, state, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA because although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish or result in the permanent loss of an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

Species of Special Concern

SSC are defined by the CDFW as a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal native to California that are not legally protected under the ESA, the California ESA or the California Fish and Game Code, but currently satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- The species has been completely extirpated from the State or, as in the case of birds, it has been extirpated from its primary seasonal or breeding role.
- The species is listed as federally (but not State) threatened or endangered, and meets the state definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed.
- The species has or is experiencing serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for state threatened or endangered status.
- The species has naturally small populations that exhibit high susceptibility to risk from any factor that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for state threatened or endangered status.

SSC are typically associated with threatened habitats. Projects that result in substantial impacts to SSC may be considered significant under CEQA.

Watch List Species

The CDFW maintains a list consisting of taxa that were previously designated as SSC but no longer merit that status, or which do not yet meet SSC criteria, but for which there is concern and a need for additional information to clarify status.

Depending on the policy of the lead agency, projects that result in substantial impacts to species on the Watch List may be considered significant under CEQA.

California Rare Plant Ranks

The CNPS maintains the *Rare Plant Inventory* (CNPS 2023a), which provides a list of plant species native to California that are threatened with extinction, have limited distributions, or low populations. Plant species meeting one of these criteria are assigned to one of six CRPRs. The rank system was developed in collaboration with government, academic, non-governmental organizations, and private sector botanists, and is jointly managed by CDFW and the CNPS. The CRPRs are currently recognized in the CNDDB. The following are definitions of the CNPS CRPRs:

- CRPR 1A – presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
- CRPR 1B – rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
- CRPR 2A – presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere
- CRPR 2B – rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere

- CRPR 3 – a review list of plants about which more information is needed
- CRPR 4 – a watch list of plants of limited distribution

Additionally, the CNPS has defined Threat Ranks that are added to the CRPR as an extension. Threat Ranks designate the level of threat on a scale of 0.1 through 0.3, with 0.1 being the most threatened and 0.3 being the least threatened. Threat Ranks are generally present for all plants ranked 1B, 2B, or 4, and for the majority of plants ranked 3. Plant species ranked 1A and 2A (presumed extirpated in California), and some species ranked 3, which lack threat information, do not typically have a Threat Rank extension. The following are definitions of the CNPS Threat Ranks:

- Threat Rank 0.1 – Seriously threatened in California (greater than 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
- Threat Rank 0.2 – Moderately threatened in California (20 to 80 percent occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
- Threat Rank 0.3 – Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Factors, such as habitat vulnerability and specificity, distribution, and condition of occurrences, are considered in setting the Threat Rank; and differences in Threat Ranks do not constitute additional or different protection (CNPS 2023a). Depending on the policy of the lead agency, substantial impacts to plants ranked 1A, 1B, 2A, or 2B are typically considered significant under CEQA Guidelines Section 15380. Significance under CEQA is typically evaluated on a case-by-case basis for plants ranked 3 or 4.

Sensitive Natural Communities

Sensitive natural communities are vegetation communities that are imperiled or vulnerable to environmental effects of projects. CDFW maintains the California Natural Community List (CDFW 2023a), which provides a list of vegetation alliances, associations, and special stands as defined in MCV (CNPS 2023b), along with their respective state and global rarity ranks, if applicable. Natural communities with a state rarity rank of S1, S2, or S3 are considered sensitive natural communities. Depending on the policy of the lead agency, impacts to sensitive natural communities may be considered significant under CEQA.

Wildlife Movement Corridors and Nursery Sites

Impacts to wildlife movement corridors or nursery sites may be considered significant under CEQA. As part of the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, CDFW and Caltrans maintain data on Essential Habitat Connectivity areas. This data is available in the CNDDB. The goal of this Project is to map large intact habitat or natural landscapes and potential linkages that could provide corridors for wildlife. In urban settings, riparian vegetated stream corridors can also serve as wildlife movement corridors. Nursery sites include but are not limited to concentrations of nest or den sites such as heron rookeries, bat maternity roosts, and mule deer critical fawning areas. These data are available through CDFW's

Biogeographic Information and Observation System database or as occurrence records in the CNDDB and are supplemented with the results of the field reconnaissance.

4.4.3.3 Local

Monterey County Local Coastal Program

Under the CCA, cities and counties along the California Coast are responsible for preparing a Local Coastal Program (LCP), which consists of a Local Coastal Plan and an Implementation Plan. The current LCP for Monterey County was written in 1985, certified by the CCC in 1988, and is currently being updated. The LCP serves as a conservation and development planning document for the coastal zone of Monterey County. The CCA encourages the productive maintenance and protection of marine resources and ESHAs, such as wetlands.

4.4.4 Biological Resources (IV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

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 CDFW or USFWS?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.

4.4.4.1 Special-Status Species

Three special status species were observed in the BSA during site reconnaissance or other technical studies consisting of Hutchinson's larkspur, Smith's blue butterfly, and California condor. However, the entire BSA was not surveyed, and there remains potential for other special-status species to be present and impacted by the Project. The BSA also supports suitable habitat for other special-status species including 41 plants (e.g., fragrant fritillary and Monterey gilia), three invertebrates (i.e., Crotch's bumble bee, western bumble bee, and monarch butterfly,), three amphibians (i.e., FYLF, CRLF, and Coast Range Newt), two reptiles (i.e., Blainville's horned lizard and Northern California legless lizard), and breeding habitat for seven birds (i.e., burrowing owl, Allen's hummingbird, wrentit, California thrasher, Lawrence's goldfinch, black-chinned sparrow, and Bullocks oriole).

The overall impact of the Project to protected species and resources would be minimal due to the nature of trail projects (e.g., predominantly hand labor construction techniques, narrow width of trail alignment, and avoidance of impacts to adjacent landscape). Additionally, this Project pairs construction of the new trail alignment with decommissioning of the old trail, which provides an opportunity for simultaneous habitat restoration, providing potential mitigation for impacts of new trail construction. Project implementation may permanently remove, alter, or impact:

- a minimal amount of suitable habitat and up to approximately 2,000 Hutchinson's larkspur plants observed within the BSA;
- a minimal amount of suitable habitat for individual special-status bumble bees, and special-status bumble bee nests;
- a small fraction of sea cliff buckwheat acreage and area of habitat considered to be occupied by sea cliff buckwheat within Garrapata SP and Smith's blue butterflies (all life stages);
- a minimal amount of suitable terrestrial habitat for adult amphibians including FYLF, CRLF, and Coast Range Newt;
- a minimal amount of habitat for adult reptiles, including California legless lizards and Blainsville's horned lizards; or
- a minimum amount of habitat and nests for several species of nesting birds including burrowing owl, Allen's hummingbird, wrentit, California thrasher, Lawrence's goldfinch, black-chinned sparrow, and Bullock's oriole.

The Proposed Project may potentially have an adverse impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on special-status species. Implementation of **SPR BIO-1** as well as **MM BIO-1** though **BIO-11** would avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-species from the Project.

SPR BIO-1: Worker Awareness Training. A qualified biologist shall conduct a mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel to aid workers in recognizing special-status species and sensitive biological resources that may occur onsite. The program shall include identification of the special-status species and their habitats, sensitive natural communities, and aquatic resources; a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources; and review of the limits of construction and SPRs, PSRs and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area.

SPR BIO-2: Implement DPR BMPs. Applicable BMPs from the DPR Coastal Habitat Restoration and Coastal Trail Improvement Management Plan for Garrapata State Park shall be implemented (DPR 2013).

Plants

Detailed below, one special-status plant species was confirmed present in the BSA during Sequoia's rare plant surveys (Appendix B; Sequoia 2023, 2024).

- Hutchinson's larkspur, a CRPR 1B.2 species was observed throughout the BSA; specifically, the BSA intersects a population of well over 3,000 plants and the Project may impact up to approximately 2,000 plants within the BSA during trail construction.

Project development would remove or alter suitable habitat and marginally suitable habitat for special-status plants, which would directly impact the plants and potentially indirectly through habitat modifications that increase the cover of invasive species.

Potential indirect impacts to special-status plants would be avoided or minimized through Project design and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR-GEN-2, SPR BIO-1, and SPR BIO-2**). Implementation of **MM BIO-**1 and **MM BIO-2** would ensure direct impacts to special-status plant species remain less than significant.

MM BIO-1: Special-Status Plant Species. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- The applicant shall perform pre-construction special-status plant surveys for portions of the BSA that were not previously surveyed (due to inaccessibility and safety) according to CDFW, CNPS, and USFWS protocols (CDFW 2018; CNPS 2001; USFWS 2000). Surveys shall be conducted throughout the unsurveyed portions of the Project footprint, to address potential direct and indirect impacts of the Project. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. To the extent feasible, surveys will be timed according to the identifiable period for special status species and known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm target species are evident and identifiable at the time of the survey.
- If no special-status plants are found, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.

If special-status plants are identified within the survey areas, mitigation measures in **MM BIO-2** shall be implemented and they would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MM BIO-2: Hutchinson's Larkspur and other Special-Status Species. To avoid or minimize impacts to Hutchinson's larkspur and other special-status species, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- The Project impact limits shall be clearly demarcated prior to construction and all workers shall be made aware of the impact limits and avoided areas. No work shall occur outside of the Project impact limits. All vehicles and equipment shall be restricted to the Project impact limits and/or existing designated access roads and staging areas.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Hutchinson's larkspur and other special-status plant species prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas. Avoidance zones shall include the extent of special-status plants plus a 10-foot buffer, and shall be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist or biological monitor shall be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- The Rocky Ridge Trail re-route or trail decommission activities may be adjusted to maximize avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur occurring in the BSA. If avoidance of

Hutchinson's larkspur is not feasible, DPR will consult with CDFW to develop appropriate measures to reduce impacts to the population to the extent feasible. These measures may include restoration or permanent preservation of habitat for special-status plant species or translocation (via seed collection and/or transplantation) from planned impact areas to planned decommissioned trails (or other restoration areas) within Garrapata SP that would be monitored for survival.

- Clothing, vehicles, and equipment (including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks) should be cleaned prior to entering the Project Site, and materials used for the Project (such as fill dirt or erosion control materials) should be from certified sources to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.

Invertebrates

The BSA contains occupied habitat for the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly, and suitable habitat for candidates for listing under the California ESA Crotch's bumblebee and western bumblebee. The Smith's blue butterfly was observed in the BSA, it has been previously documented in the BSA by DPR, and there are 23 records within 5 miles of the BSA, including a record from 1988 that overlaps with the western extent of the BSA (CNDDB Occurrence Number 32, CDFW 2024). There are no CNDDB records of Crotch's bumble bee within 5 miles of the BSA (CDFW 2024). There is one historical CNDDB record of western bumble bee within 5 miles of the BSA from 1972 (CDFW 2024).

There is also a special-status invertebrate (e.g., Monarch butterfly) that has a low potential to occur in the BSA due to an absence of breeding habitat and may only be found rarely foraging or migrating through the area. Project construction and development are not likely to directly impact this invertebrate species as it is not likely to breed in the BSA and they can easily escape to adjacent undeveloped lands for foraging and loafing. As a result, avoidance and minimization measures for Monarch butterfly is not recommended at this time.

Special-Status Bumble Bees

Potential direct impacts to western bumble bee or Crotch's bumble bee include disturbance of a ground nest or disturbance to foraging individuals where flowering plants occur in the BSA. Direct impacts to a ground nest could result in direct mortality of individual bees and eggs. The Project's disturbance to foraging individuals will be temporary.

The Project's potential indirect effects include permanent removal of flowering plants within the BSA, which would minimally reduce available floral resources for the western bumble bee or Crotch's bumble bee. Measures implemented to avoid potential impacts to special-status flowering plant populations on-site (**MM BIO-1** and MM **BIO-2**) including avoidance of special-status flowering plant populations through Project design, pre-construction plant surveys, establishing avoidance and buffer zones, and invasive species and erosion control BMPs, PSRs, and SPRs will minimize potential indirect impacts to western bumble bee and Crotch's bumble bee. Implementation of **MM BIO-3** would ensure impacts to the western bumble bee and Crotch's bumble bee remain less than significant.

MM BIO-3: Special Status Bumble Bees. To avoid or minimize impacts to special status bumble bees, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee is no longer Candidate or formally Listed species under the California ESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures for non-listed species are proposed.
- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee are legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to begin, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California ESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023a) the season immediately prior to Project implementation. A minimum of three special-status bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted at 2- to 4-week intervals during the colony active period (April through August) when special-status bumble bees are most likely to be detected. Non-lethal surveys shall be completed by a biologist who either holds a Memorandum of Understanding to capture and handle Crotch's and/or western bumble bee (if netting and chilling protocol is to be utilized), or by a CDFW-approved biologist who is experienced in identifying native bumble bee species (if surveys are restricted to visual surveys that will provide high-resolution photo documentation for species verification). The surveyor shall walk through all areas of suitable habitat focusing on areas with floral resources. Surveys shall be completed at a minimum of one person-hour of searching per 3 acres of suitable habitat during suitable weather conditions (sustained winds less than 8 miles per hour, mostly sunny to full sun, temperatures between 65° and 90°F) at an appropriate time of day for detection (at least 1 hour after sunrise and at least 2 hours before sunset, though ideally between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.).
- If Crotch's or western bumble bees are detected, CDFW shall be notified by the designated biologist as further coordination may be required to avoid or mitigate certain impacts. At a minimum, two nesting surveys shall be conducted with focus on detecting active nesting colonies within 1 week and the final survey within 24-hours prior to ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the flight season (February through October). If an active Crotch's or western bumble bee nest is detected, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer zone (including foraging resources and flight corridors essential for supporting the colony) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take and the designated biologist shall coordinate with CDFW to determine if an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California ESA will be required. Nest avoidance buffers may be removed at the completion of the flight season and/or once the qualified biologist deems the nesting colony is no longer active. If no nests are found but the species is present, a full-time qualified biological monitor shall be present during vegetation or ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the queen flight period (February through March), colony active period

(March through September), and/or gyne flight period (September through October). Because bumble bees move nest sites each year, two preconstruction nesting surveys shall be required during each subsequent year of construction, regardless of the previous year's findings, whenever vegetation and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the flight season if nesting and foraging habitat is still present or has re-established.

Smith's Blue Butterfly

Occupied habitat for the Smith's blue butterfly is present in the BSA, including many host plants distributed in various densities throughout the BSA. Project implementation may result in direct permanent impacts to eggs, larvae, and adult Smith's blue butterfly as well as their host plants from Project-related activities (specifically impact to and removal of sea cliff buckwheat). As described previously in section 4.4.2.1, the Proposed Project would impact up to 2 percent of total habitat occupied by sea cliff buckwheat and 0.59 percent of total acres of sea cliff buckwheat estimated to occur within Garrapata SP. Overall, potential impacts to sea cliff buckwheat in the BSA represents a very small fraction of the overall occupied habitat or acreage of sea cliff buckwheat and potential habitat for Smith's blue butterfly within Garrapata SP and will be addressed with restoration associated with decommissioning of the existing Rocky Ridge trail. In addition, this represents an estimate of the maximum potential impacts associated with the Project, as relative impacts will vary significantly between new trail construction (e.g., brush removal for trail construction, where the footprint/width of brush removal depends on slope) and trail decommissioning (e.g., construction of check dams in targeted locations, regrading of targeted areas to stabilize erosion, restoration, and limited brush removal). Due to the variable nature of Project activities, some impacts to sea cliff buckwheat and Smith's blue butterfly may be avoided during Project implementation.

Potential impacts to Smith's Blue Butterfly would be avoided or minimized through Project design and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect biological resources (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR GEN-2, SPR BIO-1, and SPR BIO-2**). Potential indirect impacts to Smith's blue butterfly have been avoided or minimized through Project design, and implementation of **MM BIO-4** would reduce direct impacts to less than significant.

MM BIO-4: Smith's Blue Butterfly. To avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- Project implementation shall avoid or reduce construction activities where sea cliff buckwheat plants occur during the butterfly's flight season, mid-June to early September, so as to minimize disruptions to butterfly behavior.
- Project design shall avoid impact to or removal of sea-cliff buckwheat, by minimizing impacts to the minimum necessary for Project implementation and making adjustments to the trail alignment during construction, where feasible. If sea cliff buckwheat plants are cut or removed for trail construction/decommission, the cut material shall be placed on/near other live buckwheat plants to allow butterfly larvae

or pupae, if present, to locate live plants. DPR will have an appropriate person survey the work area to identify sea cliff buckwheat.

- Consult with USFWS to ensure take coverage is acquired and determine if additional appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly are required. Mitigation would occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. Section 7 or 10 of the federal ESA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate required minimization measures to compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly impacts. Additional measures to avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly may include preconstruction surveys and biological monitoring during construction.

Amphibians

Suitable habitat for FYLF, CRLF, and Coast Range newt is present within the BSA.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

FYLF has a low potential to occur in the BSA due to a lack of suitable permanent aquatic habitat. This species, however, may occasionally utilize wetland and ephemeral and intermittent drainages in the BSA as dispersal corridors for adults. Construction of the Proposed Project may result in direct permanent impacts to FYLF dispersal habitat and may result in the direct loss of adults. In addition to direct permanent impacts, implementation of the Project could result in indirect temporary impacts to FYLF habitats from construction-related activities causing increased erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and pollution/contamination.

Potential indirect impacts to FYLF would be avoided or minimized through Project design and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR-GEN-2, SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2 MM BIO-5 and MM BIO-11** below). Implementation of **MM BIO-5** would ensure direct impacts to FYLF remain less than significant.

MM BIO–5: Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct assessment-level surveys for portions of the Project area within 300 of Soberanes Creek to determine whether FYLF occupy habitats within or surrounding the site.
- If surveys identify FYLF or FYLF habitat, consult with USFWS to determine appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to FYLF. Mitigation would have to occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate and required mitigation for FYLF impacts. Measures may include preconstruction surveys, and biological monitoring during construction.

California Red-Legged Frog

Suitable dispersal habitat for the CRLF is present within the BSA. Project implementation may result in direct permanent impacts to CRLF adults and terrestrial dispersal habitat or indirect temporary impacts to CRLF non-breeding aquatic habitats from Project-related activities causing increased erosion, sedimentation, turbidity.

Potential indirect impacts to CRLF would be avoided or minimized through Project design and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR GEN-2, SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, MM BIO-6 and MM BIO-11** below). Implementation of **MM BIO-6** would ensure direct impacts to CRLF remain less than significant.

MM BIO-6: California Red-Legged Frog. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Conduct visual surveys for CRLF in Project areas within 300 feet of Soberanes Creek no more than 48 hours prior to disturbance for new trail construction. If CRLF are observed in the work site, a USFWS-approved biologist shall capture and relocate the frogs to other suitable habitat up- or downstream of the work area. The USFWS-approved biologist shall monitor the initial ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal in work areas adjacent to Soberanes Creek.
- Potential indirect impacts to CRLF shall be avoided or minimized through Project design, where feasible, and implementation of construction BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (e.g., erosion control measures).

Coast Range Newt

Suitable dispersal habitat for the Coast Range newt in the BSA occurs in the vicinity of Soberanes Creek (back side trail reroute and existing trail). Construction activities may result in minor direct impacts to Coast Range newt terrestrial habitat and may result in the direct loss of adults.

Potential indirect impacts to Coast Range newt would be avoided or minimized through Project design, and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR GEN-2, SPR BIO-1, SPR BIO-2, MM BIO-7**, and **MM BIO-11**, below). **MM BIO-7** would ensure direct impacts to Coast Range newt remain less than significant.

MM BIO-7: Coast Range Newt. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Where habitat for Coast Range newt is identified in the BSA, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and construction). If Coast Range newts are found during a survey, newts shall be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site.
- Where habitat for Coast Range newt is identified, the monitor shall inspect erosion control materials daily for Coast Range newt.

Reptiles

The BSA contains suitable habitat for special-status reptiles, Northern California Legless Lizard and Blainville's Horned Lizard.

Northern California Legless Lizard

Implementation of the Proposed Project could result in indirect temporary impacts to Northern California Legless Lizard habitats from construction-related activities that result in increased erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and pollution/contamination.

Direct impacts to Coast range newt could result from construction-related activities such as earth-moving and vegetation removal that could directly harm this species. Potential indirect impacts to Northern California Legless Lizard would be avoided or minimized through Project design, and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, and required BMPs designed to protect sensitive habitat (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR GEN-2, SPR BIO-1**, **SPR BIO-2,** and **MM BIO-8**, below). **MM BIO-8** would ensure direct impacts to Northern California Legless Lizard remain less than significant.

MM BIO-8: Northern California Legless Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Immediately prior to any ground disturbing activity within suitable habitat for the species, the biologist shall manually rake the soil in suitable habitat to locate any lizards. The biologist shall also check under any natural or artificial cover objects within suitable habitat.
- A qualified biologist shall monitor the initial ground stripping and grading of the development area for legless lizards. If any legless lizards are observed during the work, the biologist shall capture the lizards by hand or net, place the individuals in a bucket with sand, and relocate the individuals to an adjacent area (within 100 feet) of suitable habitat outside the construction zone.

Blainville's Horned Lizard

Implementation of the Proposed Project could result in indirect temporary impacts to Blainville's horned lizard habitats from construction-related activities that result in increased erosion, sedimentation, turbidity, and pollution/contamination. Direct impacts to Blainville's horned lizard could result from construction-related activities such as earth-moving and vegetation removal that could directly harm this species.

Potential indirect impacts to Blainville's horned lizard would be avoided or minimized through Project design, and implementation of construction SPRs, PSRs, MMs, and required BMPs designed to protect sensitive habitat (i.e., **SPR GEN-1, SPR GEN-2, SPR BIO-1**, **SPR BIO-2,** and **MM BIO-9**, below). **MM BIO-9** would ensure direct impacts to Blainville's Horned Lizard remain less than significant.

MM BIO-9: Blainville's Horned Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction. A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Blainville's

horned lizard within all suitable habitat in the BSA 72 hours prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. Any individuals discovered in the Project work area immediately prior to or during Project activities shall be allowed to move out of the work area of their own volition. If this is not feasible, they shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet from the Project work area where they were found.

Birds

Special-status birds that could occur in the BSA include potential breeding species, species with low potential to occur in the BSA due to an absence of breeding habitat or marginal breeding habitat present, or species that may only be found occasionally foraging or migrating through the area. Project construction and developments are not likely to directly impact bird species that are not potentially breeding in the BSA, as they can easily escape to adjacent undeveloped lands for foraging and loafing. These species include burrowing owls, California condor, and Bullock's oriole; no avoidance and minimization measures pertaining to potential impacts to these special-status birds are recommended at this time.

A number of other potentially occurring special-status birds could nest in the BSA including Alen's hummingbird, wrentit, California thrasher, Lawrence's goldfinch, and black-chinned sparrow. Project activities could result in the direct loss of individuals and occupied nests (eggs, nestlings) or cause nest abandonment. In addition to the above listed special-status birds, all native birds, including raptors, are protected under the California Fish and Game Code and the federal MBTA. As such, to ensure that there are no impacts to protected active nests, **MM BIO-10** would be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant.

MM BIO-10: Nesting Birds. If construction or vegetation removal begins between February 1 to September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction/pre-vegetation removal nesting bird survey in the BSA and a 100-foot buffer around the Project within 14 days prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established in coordination with CDFW until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise no longer occupied.

Mammals

Suitable habitat for one special status mammal is present within the BSA. This includes the Townsend's big-eared bat.

Townsend's Big-Eared Bat

Townsend's big eared bat has low potential to occur within the BSA. There is a small amount of marginal habitat in the form of crevices in rock outcroppings adjacent to the planned trail alignment and trail decommission areas that provide a low potential for roosting sites in the BSA`. No direct impacts to rock outcrops are anticipated as part of Project activities. Direct impacts to Townsend's big-eared bat are not

expected, and indirect impacts are expected to be minimal. Therefore, no minimization requirements are recommended for Townsend's big-eared bat.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

There are no sensitive natural communities or riparian habitat within the BSA and none will be impacted by the Proposed Project activities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Any impact would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.

A total of 0.087 acre of potential Waters of the U.S. and/or State, regulated by the USACE and RWQCB have been mapped within the BSA (see Table 4.4-1 in Section 4.4.1.2). All waters of the U.S. or State would presumably be regulated CCC jurisdictional wetlands.

The aquatic resources in the BSA are considered potential jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and State, and as such, are regulated by Sections 404 and 401 of the CWA and/or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The intermittent and ephemeral drainages in the BSA are also subject to regulation under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. These features could be directly or indirectly impacted by Project activities. Direct impacts to aquatic resources would include any grading, trenching, excavation, or placement of temporary or permanent fill within a regulated feature. Indirect impacts may include inadvertent encroachments, changes in hydrology, and runoff and erosion from the Project Site.

Implementation of **MM BIO-11** would ensure impacts to ephemeral drains, seasonal wetlands, and intermittent drainages are less than significant.

MM BIO-11: Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices. The following BMPs shall be implemented:

- The Project shall avoid aquatic resources to the extent feasible. Aquatic resources located within 50 feet of the Project footprint will be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be clearly demarcated with orange construction fencing or other visible barrier, and no Project-related activities shall be permitted within the delineated area.
- To minimize potential indirect effects, the applicant shall prepare and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to avoid and minimize erosion and runoff to wetlands and other waters that are to remain within or adjacent to the Project Site.

Prior to the start of construction activities, CDPR will obtain all necessary regulatory permits for this Project. These permits are expected to include a CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the USACE, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB, a CWA Section 402 NPDES Compliance Permit from the SWRCB, a Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, from CDFW, and a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The Project shall implement all BMPs and mitigation measures identified in the issues permits. Implementation of **MM BIO-11** would ensure that potential impacts to jurisdictional water and wetlands remain at less than significant levels.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

There are no essential or critical wildlife corridors, or nursery sites mapped within the BSA. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project will not 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. Any impact would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

DPR is not subject to local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; however, Department policy and its Mission Statement incorporate the

protection of natural resources into the short-term and long-term management goals for its park units. Furthermore, DPR operates cooperatively with sister agencies and local jurisdictions to ensure natural resources are protected in perpetuity. This impact is less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Site is not located within or adjacent to an HCP or Natural Community Conservation Plan. There would be no impact, and no mitigation is required.

4.4.5 Mitigation Measures

With implementation of **SPR BIO-1** and **MMs BIO-1** though **BIO-11** impacts would be less than significant.

4.5 Cultural Resources

ECORP prepared an *Archaeological Resources Inventory Report* for the Proposed Project, to determine if cultural resources were present in or adjacent to the Project Site and assess the sensitivity of the Project Site for undiscovered or buried cultural resources. Cultural resources include pre-contact archaeological sites, historical archaeological sites, and historic built environment sites. Pre-contact archaeological sites are places that contain the material remains of activities carried out by the native population of the area (i.e., Native Americans) prior to the arrival of Europeans in the Project Site. Places that contain the material remains of activities carried out by people after the arrival of Europeans are considered historical archaeological sites. Historic built environment features include houses, garages, barns, commercial facilities, industrial facilities, community buildings, and other buildings, structures, and facilities that are more than 50 years old. Historic built environment features may also have associated archaeological deposits, such as abandoned wells, cellars, privies, refuse deposits, and foundations of former outbuildings.

The information provided below is an abridged version of the Cultural Resources Inventory Report and is included here to provide a brief context of the potential cultural resources in the Project Site. Due to the sensitive nature of cultural resources and their records and documentation, which area restricted from public distribution by state and federal law, the IS/MND appendices do not include the cultural resources report; however, all pertinent information necessary for impact determinations is included in this section.

4.5.1 Environmental Setting

4.5.1.1 Archaeology

Central Coast pre-contact chronology is typically divided into Early, Middle, and Late periods. The first inhabitants of Monterey County were the Chumash, who began occupying the area over 11,000 years ago. Over the course of the next several millennia, there was continuous occupation of the Monterey Bay area by multiple cultural groups. The Chumash were initially usurped by Proto-Esselen speakers, who occupied much of the area south of Monterey Bay until 4,000 years ago. The subsequent movement of Penutian-speaking tribes from the north shifted the Hoak and Yukian speaking groups north towards the San Francisco Bay Area and the Esselen further south on the coast, to occupy the land that currently comprises the Proposed Project Site.

4.5.1.2 Ethnography

Garrapata SP is located at an area of overlap between two tribes, the Rumsen Ohlone and Esselen.

The Proposed Project Site is within the Rumsen language group of the Ohlone tribe. Contemporary Rumsen recognizes their traditional territory to include the Monterey Peninsula, the Lower Carmel Valley, Salinas, Toro Creek, the coast south of the Carmel River to Palo Colorado Canyon and possibly Andrew Molera. The basic unit of their political organization was the tribelet. Each tribelet had a chief and a council of elders. The Rumsen located their permanent settlements away from the ocean shore on high ground.

The Proposed Project Site is immediately north of lands known to be inhabited by the Esselen, a Hokan speaking people who inhabited the wooded mountains and central coast environment, including areas of the Carmel Valley, areas south of the City of Monterey, extending south to Junipero Serra Peak, and the Santa Lucia Range. Distinct cultural practices of the Esselen have been lost and have been complicated by early documentation being confused/combined with neighboring tribes. A more robust ethnographic account can be found in Section 4.18 *Tribal Cultural Resources*.

4.5.1.3 Historical Background

Garrapata SP was originally part of the Mexican land grant Rancho San Jose y Sur Chiquito. The land grant was later divided, and William B. Post acquired two 160-acre parcels. Post lived on the land from 1858 to 1866. In 1867, Post sold his land to David Castro, who then sold it to Ezequiel Soberanes the following year. Soberanes operated a cattle and sheep ranch for 24 years (Garrapata SP 2003). In 1891, Monterey resident Francis Doud, a senior member of the California Society of Pioneers, raised cattle on his ranch until his death in 1933. Doud's descendants continued to operate the ranch. In 1980, the DPR acquired 180 acres of the ranch for the creation of Garrapata SP in 1985.

4.5.1.4 Cultural Resources

ECORP prepared an *Archaeological Resources Inventory Report* (ECORP 2023, *CONFIDENTIAL* Appendix C) for the Proposed Project to determine if cultural resources were present in or adjacent to the Project Site

and assess the sensitivity of the Project Site for undiscovered or buried cultural resources. The full cultural context of the Project Site, along with the methods and results of the study, can be found in the report. Because the locations of archaeological sites are confidential and restricted from public distribution by state and federal law, the report is not included as an appendix to this document.

According to the records search conducted by the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) and DPR, no cultural resources are within the Study Area. As a result of the 2023 survey, ECORP archaeologists recorded a previously unrecorded segment of the Old Coast Trail within the Study Area as GP-1; however, this segment of the Old Coast Trail is not within the proposed Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute portion of the Study Area. During field survey ECORP revisited some resources which were adjacent to the Study Area including, CA-MNT-185/H, CA-MNT-1040, and CA-MNT-2449.

GP-1 is an approximately 608-foot-long segment of the much longer Old Coast Trail, located approximately 235 feet east of Highway 1 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. The trail is first depicted on the 1880 General Land Office Plat map as an unnamed trail that contours the high table bluffs along the Pacific Ocean coastline.

4.5.2 Cultural Resources (V) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The potential for buried pre-contact cultural resources varies from low to high throughout the Study Area. There exists a low potential for buried archaeological resources on hillsides with slopes that exceed 30 degrees. There is also a low potential for subsurface historic-era archaeological deposits. Overall, a vast majority of the Proposed Project and Rocky Ridge Trial Reroute is along a ridgeline and contours steep hillsides; neither area is suitable for permanent pre-contact or historic-era habitation resources.

There is a moderate potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits near the Project Site as CA-MNT-2449 is adjacent to the existing trail. However, the resource is not within the Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute. There is always the possibility to come across previously unidentified deposits, especially considering the number of known archaeological resources that are present within the vicinity of the Project Site, therefore, the Proposed Project includes **SPR CUL-1** and **PSR CUL-2** and **3**, which would ensure impacts to undocumented resources remain less than significant. If any construction or groundbreaking disturbances are required within the CA-MNT-2449 boundaries, then **PSR CUL-2** would be required to avoid any potential impacts to these resources that could occur as a result of the Project. **SPR CUL-1** and **PSR CUL-2** and **3** would ensure potential impacts on known Historical Resources remain at a less than significant level.

SPR CUL-1: Undocumented Cultural Resources. If anyone discovers previously undocumented cultural resources during Project construction, work within 100 feet of the find will be temporarily halted until the archaeologist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resource protection.

DPR will modify the Project to ensure that construction activities will avoid cultural resources upon review and approval of a DPR Archaeologist.

If ground disturbing activities uncover intact cultural features (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic ash) or human remains, when a DPR qualified cultural resources specialist is not on-site, Project manager/site supervisor will contact the DPR State Representative immediately and will temporarily halt or divert work within the immediate vicinity of the find until a DPR-qualified cultural resources specialist evaluates the find and determines the appropriate treatment and disposition.

The archaeologist shall notify the Monterey County Coroner (Coroner) (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and Assembly Bill (AB) 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the Project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, then the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

PSR CUL-2: Cultural Monitoring Plan. A comprehensive Cultural Monitoring Plan will be implemented for the Project and will include both construction and long-term post-construction monitoring. Monitoring will be conducted by a DPR Archaeologist and a Native American representative affiliated with the area.

Construction Monitoring will be implemented at the discretion of the California State Park archaeologist and will focus on those locations where trail construction is adjacent to archaeological sites (CA-MNT-2449). The DPR Archaeologist, with assistance from a Tribal Representative, will monitor other construction activities as deemed necessary.

PSR CUL-3: Cultural Awareness Training. All workers, regardless of location, shall receive contractor awareness cultural resources sensitivity training prior to construction. The training program should be developed by an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology and include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources and TCRs, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating state laws and regulations. It should also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and TCRs that may be located at the Project locations and provide guidance on procedures to follow if any cultural resources or tribal resources are encountered.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Project Site was investigated by a professional archaeologist, who determined that archaeological resources do exist within the area but not within the Rocky Ridge Trail reroute. According to the Archaeological Resources Inventory Report (ECORP 2023), the potential for buried pre-contact cultural resources ranges from low to high throughout the Proposed Project Site. There exists a low potential for buried archaeological resources on hillsides with slopes that exceed 30 degrees. Overall, a vast majority of the proposed Rocky Ridge Trail reroute is along a ridgeline and contours steep hillsides; neither area is suitable for permanent pre-contact or historic-era habitation resources. As mentioned above, there is a moderate potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits near the proposed staging area. The existing Rocky Ridge trail that is intended to be restored is located adjacent to previously recorded pre-contact resources CA-MNT-2449. There is always the possibility of coming across previously unidentified deposits, especially considering the number of known archaeological resources that are present within the Project Site. Therefore, implementation of **SPR CUL-1**, **PSR CUL-2**, and **PSR CUL-3** as noted above, has been included to ensure that potential impacts to archaeological resources remain at a less than significant level. Therefore, the impact is found to be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Human burials have occurred outside of dedicated cemeteries, usually associated with archaeological resource sites and pre-contact people; therefore, areas with known archaeological resources sites may have higher risk for containing human remains.

No human remains have been identified within the Project Site. However, implementation of the Proposed Project would include ground-disturbing construction activities near known archaeological midden and habitation sites, which have known potential to contain human remains. Project activity could result in the inadvertent disturbance of currently undiscovered human remains. Procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains on non-federal lands are mandated by Health and Safety Code § 7050.5, by PRC § 5097.98, and by CEQA in CCR § 15064.5(e).

According to state law, should human remains be encountered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the remains must cease, and any necessary steps to ensure the security and integrity of the discovery must be taken. The Coroner would be immediately notified, and the coroner would then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC, which will in turn notify the person identified as the MLD of those human remains. Further actions would be determined, in part, by the recommendations of the MLD, who has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains from the time that access to the property is granted.

Implementation of PSR CUL-1 as noted above would ensure that any discovery of human remains within the Project Site would be subject to these procedural requirements. This impact, therefore, is considered less than significant.

4.5.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR CUL-1** and **PSR CUL-2** and **3** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.6 Energy

The consumption of energy resources results in direct and indirect environmental impacts through the depletion of nonrenewable resources (e.g., oil, natural gas, coal) and emissions of pollutants during energy production. As the Project is proposing improvements to an existing pedestrian trail network that is not served by electric utilities, the impact analysis focuses on the sole source of energy that is relevant to the Proposed Project, the equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction.

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

Energy relates directly to environmental quality. Energy use can adversely affect air quality and other natural resources. The vast majority of California's air pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels. Consumption of fossil fuels is linked to changes in global climate and depletion of stratospheric O_3. Transportation energy use is related to the fuel efficiency of cars, trucks, and public transportation; choice of different travel modes (auto, carpool, and public transit); vehicle speeds; and miles traveled by these modes. Construction and routine operation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure also

consume energy. In addition, residential, commercial, and industrial land uses consume energy, typically through the usage of natural gas and electricity.

4.6.1.1 Energy Types and Sources

California relies on a regional power system comprised of a diverse mix of natural gas, renewable, hydroelectric, and nuclear generation resources. Natural gas provides California with a majority of its electricity, closely followed by renewables, large hydroelectric and nuclear (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2023). Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides electricity and natural gas to Monterey County. The company has various sources of clean power to offer its customers, stating that in 2022, approximately 95 percent of the customer's electricity comes from GHG free resources, including renewables, nuclear, and hydroelectric power (PG&E 2023). Furthermore, PG&E delivered approximately 40 percent of the electricity that they provided was from renewable resources that qualified under the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), and the company remains on track for the new RPS mandate from SB 100, which mandates 60 RPS by 2030. PG&E also offers a program to customers to purchase up to 100 percent of their electricity from either solar or regional renewable energy sources. The company currently provides 5.5 million customers with electricity and natural gas throughout the state of California.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates PG&E. The CPUC has developed energy efficiency programs such as smart meters, low-income programs, distribution generation programs, self-generation incentive programs, and a California solar initiative. Additionally, the CEC maintains a power plant database that describes all of the operating power plants in the state by county.

4.6.1.2 Energy Types and Sources

Vehicle fuel use is typically measured in gallons (e.g., of gasoline or diesel fuel), although energy use for electric vehicles is measured in kWh.

Automotive fuel consumption in Monterey County from 2018 to 2022 is shown in Table 4.6-1. Fuel consumption has decreased since 2018.

Table 4.6-1. Automotive Fuel Consumption in Monterey County 2018-2022

Year	Total Fuel Consumption
2022	208,514,541
2021	209,088,561
2020	187,447,147
2019	213,161,468
2018	212,788,201

Source: California Air Resources Boad 2022

4.6.2 Energy (VI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The impact analysis focuses on the source of energy that is relevant to the Proposed Project: the equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction. Addressing energy impacts requires an agency to make a determination as to what constitutes a significant impact. There are no established thresholds of significance, statewide or locally, for what constitutes a wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy for a proposed land use project. For this analysis, the amount of fuel necessary for Project construction is calculated and compared to that consumed in Monterey County.

The amount of total construction-related fuel use was estimated using ratios provided in the Climate Registry's General Reporting Protocol for the Voluntary Reporting Program, Version 2.1. Fuel consumption associated with the Proposed Project is summarized in Table 4.6-2 (see Appendix D).

Table 4.6-2. Proposed Project Fuel Consumption

Energy Type	Annual Energy Consumption	Percentage Increase Countywide
Automotive Fuel Consumption		
Project Construction Year One	7,094 gallons	0.0034

Notes: The Project increases in construction automotive fuel consumption are compared with the countywide fuel consumption in 2022, the most recent full year of data.

Source: Refer to Appendix D for Fuel Consumption calculations.

Fuel necessary for Project construction would be required for the operation and maintenance of construction equipment and the transportation of materials to the Project Site. The fuel expenditure necessary to construct the trails would be temporary, lasting only as long as Project construction. As indicated in Table 4.6-2, the Project's gasoline fuel consumption during the one-time construction period is estimated to be 7,094 gallons during the first year of construction. This would increase the annual fuel use in the county by 0.0034 percent. It is noted that the majority of construction-related activities would be completed by hand crews with small, mechanized equipment and handheld power tools. However, in Project areas where it is possible to use heavy construction equipment, excavators and trail dozers may be utilized to restore or construct the trail. As such, a conservative modeling approach was taken for energy consumption related to the Project's construction. Therefore, it is expected that the Project's energy consumption during construction would be less than the 7,094 gallons. As such, Project construction would have a nominal effect on local and regional energy supplies. No unusual Project characteristics

would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or the state. Construction contractors would purchase their own gasoline and diesel fuel from local suppliers and would judiciously use fuel supplies to minimize costs due to waste and subsequently maximize profits. Additionally, construction equipment fleet turnover and increasingly stringent state and federal regulations on engine efficiency combined with state regulations limiting engine idling times and requiring recycling of construction debris, would further reduce the amount of transportation fuel demand during Project construction. For these reasons, it is expected that construction fuel consumption associated with the Project would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than other similar development projects of this nature. This impact would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Project is designed in a manner that is consistent with relevant energy conservation plans designed to encourage development that results in the efficient use of energy resources. The Monterey County General Plan Conservation Open Space Element (County of Monterey 2010a) requires that all new development should maximize energy efficiency to the extent feasible. The Proposed Project would not conflict with the General Plan policies relating to energy efficiency.

Additionally, although the Proposed Project would not include the construction of any buildings, the Project would adhere to all relevant standards of the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, as specified in Title 24, Part 6, of the CCR (Title 24). Title 24 was established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Title 24 is updated approximately every three years; the 2019 Title 24 updates went into effect on January 1, 2020. The 2022 standards became effective January 1, 2023. The 2022 Energy Standards improve upon the 2019 Energy Standards for new construction of, and additions and alterations to, residential and nonresidential buildings. The 2022 update to the Energy Standards focuses on several key areas to improve the energy efficiency of newly constructed buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings, encouraging better energy efficiency, strengthening ventilation standards, and more. The 2022 Energy Standards are a major step toward meeting Zero Net Energy. Buildings permitted on or after January 1, 2023, must comply with the 2022 Standards. Additionally, in January 2010, the State of California adopted the California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen) that establishes mandatory green building standards for all buildings in California. The code was subsequently updated in 2013. The code covers five categories: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and indoor environmental quality. With these building standards in place, the Project would not obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Furthermore, the Project includes the renovation of existing and construction of new and decommissioned trails which would not result in any substantial increases in the consumption of energy during operations.

For these reasons, this impact would be less than significant.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.7 Geology and Soils

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

4.7.1.1 Topography

The topography of Monterey Bay south to Carmel Valley varies along the coast from sandy beaches and large sand dunes to steep rocky cliffs and terraced bluffs (Greene 1977). The Santa Lucia Range of the Carmel Canyons dominates the Carmel region where the western flank of the range abruptly slopes to the Pacific Ocean. The Carmel Canyon and its tributaries are characterized by V-shaped sections with steep ravines and narrow floors (Greene 1977).

4.7.1.2 Geology

The underlying geology of Garrapata SP consists of Mesozoic granitic rock from the Salinian block dating from the early Cretaceous to late Cretaceous period. It consists of granite, quartz, diorite, and gneiss from the Santa Lucia Mountain Range (Jennings and Strand 1958). The granitic rocks are of varied composition and were laid down approximately 75 to 1200 million years ago.

4.7.1.3 Regional Seismicity and Fault Zones

An "active fault," according to DOC, Division of Mines and Geology, is a fault that has indicated surface displacement within the last 11,000 years. A fault that has not shown geologic evidence of surface displacement in the last 11,000 years is considered "inactive." The Fault Activity Map of California (DOC 2023a and USGS 2023a) shows Garrapata SP having two unnamed pre-quaternary faults running through the Proposed Project boundaries. Garrapata SP is also adjacent to two quaternary faults: Garrapata Fault and the Palo Colorado Fault. The San Andreas Fault lies approximately 30 miles to the northeast of the Proposed Project Site.

4.7.1.4 Soils

According to the Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2023), five soil units, or types, have been mapped within the Study Area. Cieneba fine gravelly sandy loam (CcG), 30 to 75 percent slopes, is a somewhat excessively drained soil type with a parent material of sandy and gravelly residuum from weathered igneous and metamorphic rock. Paralithic bedrock is present 11 inches below the surface. Gamboa-Sur complex (Ga) is a well-drained soil with a parent material of gravelly loamy residuum from weathered igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rock. The depth to bedrock is approximately 59 inches. Junipero-Sur complex (Jc) is a well-drained soil with a parent material of coarse-loamy residuum from weathered igneous and metamorphic rock. The depth to bedrock is 30 inches. Sheridan coarse sandy loam (SoG), 30

to 75 percent slopes is a well-drained soil with a parent material of coarse-loamy residuum from weathered igneous and metamorphic rock. Paralithic bedrock is present at 39 inches of depth. Vista-Rock outcrop complex (Vb), 30 to 75 percent slopes, is a well-drained soil. The parent material is a coarse-loamy residuum from weathered igneous and metamorphic rock. Bedrock is present approximately 23 inches below surface.

No soil units derived from serpentinite or other ultramafic parent materials have been reported to occur within the Proposed Project or its immediate vicinity.

4.7.2 Geology and Soils (VII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

i and ii) The Proposed Project Site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone as designated by the California Geographic Survey. Two regional quaternary faults are located within the vicinity of the Proposed Project Site. The Proposed Project, however, would not add any use, above what is currently onsite, that would substantially increase loss nor would the Project substantially increase the exposure of the public to injury or death should a seismic event occur. The potential for primary surface ground rupture within the site is remote due to the absence of known active faults crossing the site. The potential for damage due to ground shaking would be minimized by proper design of the Proposed Project that involves construction of a trail and will have very minimal structural element (i.e., retaining walls, and stairs). Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

iii) Liquefaction is a phenomenon where water-saturated granular soil loses shear strength during strong ground shaking produced by earthquakes. The loss of soil strength occurs as a consequence of cyclic pore water pressure increasing below the groundwater surface. Potential hazards due to liquefaction include

loss of bearing strength beneath structures, possibly causing foundation failure and/or significant settlements and differential settlements. There are no areas of liquefaction mapped within the Project Site and no structures planned for the Project Site (DOC 2023b). Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

iv) The Proposed Project Site is located within a region that is prone to landslides and historically has had landslides at the Proposed Project location. The Project Site is also within an area deemed to have a high erosion rating (County of Monterey 2021, USGS 2023b, and DOC 2023c). However, part of the Proposed Project is intended to restore the existing Rocky Ridge Trail that has been deemed unsafe due to erosion and site degradation. The Project would fix the existing trail conditions, reroute where necessary, and restore the decommissioned parts of the trail to a natural state, which would repair the erosion and landslide damage. The construction of the new trail would comply with the DPR Trails Handbook and does not include any additional uses that would increase loss, nor would the Project substantially increase the exposure of the public to injury or death should a landslide event occur. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

BMPs are included as part of the SWPPP that would be prepared for the Proposed Project and would be implemented to manage erosion and the loss of topsoil during construction-related activities (see Section 4.10.2 *Hydrology and Water Quality (X) Environmental Checklist and Discussion*). Some soil erosion could occur as a result of ground-disturbing activities associated with the trail construction. To minimize the potential for soil erosion during construction activities, **SPR GEO-1**, **SPR GEO-2,** and **PSR GEO-3** have been incorporated into the Project design to ensure these impacts remain at a less than significant level. No mitigation is required.

SPR GEO-1: DPR will implement BMPs to be used in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, or trenching.

BMPs must always be in place including, but not limited to, covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, wildlife-friendly fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and disturbed areas.

SPR GEO-2: No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be driven through wet areas during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.

PSR GEO-3: DPR will develop a rehabilitation plan for the decommissioned trail that includes using brush and brush removed from the new trail alignment for bio-mechanical erosion control (bundling slash and keying it in to fall of trail, filling damaged trails sections with soil and duff removed from the new trail alignment, constructing water bars, and replanting native trees and shrubs.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

As noted in a) iv) above, the Proposed Project Site is located within a site prone to landslides. However, part of the Proposed Project is intended to restore the current Rocky Ridge Trail that is currently unsafe due to erosion and habitat degradation. The existing trail would be enhanced compared to the current condition when restored to its natural condition. The new trail would adhere to the DPR Trails Handbook (Appendix F) and due to the steep hillsides, the majority of construction work would be completed with hand tools, handheld power tools, and small mechanized equipment such as toters and rock drills. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

As noted in a) iii above, there are no areas of liquefaction mapped within the Project Site at Garrapata SP and no structures planned for the Project Site. Therefore, no impact would occur. No mitigation necessary.

The Project does not involve structural components that could put anyone at risk in the event of a seismic event. Therefore, no impact would occur, and mitigation is not required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Expansive soils are those soils that have high clay content that swell when wet and shrink when dry. Soils on the Project Site are loams, sandy loams, and loamy sands and do not have a high clay content that would swell when wet and shrink when dry. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are not part of the Proposed Project design. No impacts would occur. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

According to the University of California Museum of Paleontology and Sierra College Natural History Museum, there are no known paleontological resources within the Proposed Project Site. Implementation of **SPR PALEO-1** would further reduce potential impacts.

SPR PALEO-1: Undiscovered Paleontological Resources. If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until DPR is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. If DPR resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, the DPR will have a paleontologist onsite to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area.

4.7.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR GEO-1**through **3** as well as **SPR PALEO-1** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would remain less than significant.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

GHG emissions are released as byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, waste disposal, energy use, land use changes, and other human activities. This release of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and chlorofluorocarbons, creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as the greenhouse effect, human activities have accelerated the generation of GHGs beyond natural levels. The overabundance of GHGs in the atmosphere has led to an unexpected warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth's climate system.

Each GHG differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere based on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. CH_4 traps more than 25 times more heat per molecule than CO_2, and N_2O absorbs 298 times more heat per molecule than CO_2. Often, estimates of GHG emissions are presented in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2es). Expressing GHG emissions in CO2 equivalents takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO_2 were being emitted.

The CEQA Guidelines emphasize the lead agency's discretion to determine the appropriate methodologies and thresholds of significance consistent with the manner in which other impact areas are handled in CEQA. With respect to GHG emissions, the CEQA Guidelines § 15064.4(a) states that lead agencies "shall make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate" GHG emissions resulting from a project. The CEQA Guidelines note that an agency has the discretion to either quantify a project's GHG emissions or rely on a "qualitative analysis or other performance-based standards." (14 CCR 15064.4(b)). A lead agency may use a "model or methodology" to estimate GHG emissions and has the discretion to select the model or methodology it considers "most appropriate to enable decision makers to intelligently take into account the Project's incremental contribution to climate change." (14 CCR 15064.4(c)). Section 15064.4(b) provides that the lead agency should consider the following when determining the significance of impacts from GHG emissions on the environment:

1. The extent a project may increase or reduce GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting.
2. Whether the Project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the Project.
3. The extent to which the Project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions (14 CCR 15064.4(b)).

In addition, Section 15064.7(c) of the CEQA Guidelines specifies that "[w]hen adopting or using thresholds of significance, a lead agency may consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies, or recommended by experts, provided the decision of the lead

agency to adopt such thresholds is supported by substantial evidence" (14 CCR 15064.7(c)). The CEQA Guidelines also clarify that the effects of GHG emissions are cumulative and should be analyzed in the context of CEQA's requirements for cumulative impact analysis (see CEQA Guidelines § 15130(f)). As a note, the CEQA Guidelines were amended in response to SB 97. In particular, the CEQA Guidelines were amended to specify that compliance with a GHG emissions reduction plan renders a cumulative impact insignificant.

Per CEQA Guidelines § 15064(h)(3), a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative impact can be found not cumulatively considerable if the Project would comply with an approved plan or mitigation program that provides specific requirements that would avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative problem within the geographic area of the Project. To qualify, such plans or programs must be specified in law or adopted by the public agency with jurisdiction over the affected resources through a public review process to implement, interpret, or make specific the law enforced or administered by the public agency. Examples of such programs include a "water quality control plan, air quality attainment or maintenance plan, integrated waste management plan, habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plans [and] plans or regulations for the reduction of GHG emissions." Put another way, CEQA Guidelines § 15064(h)(3) allows a lead agency to make a finding of less than significant for GHG emissions if a project complies with adopted programs, plans, policies, and/or other regulatory strategies to reduce GHG emissions.

The local air quality agency regulating the NCCAB is the MBARD, the regional air pollution control officer for the basin. The MBARD has not yet established a GHG significance threshold for land use projects. Furthermore, while Monterey County is in the process of adapting the first Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, it has not been approved at the time of this analysis. Therefore, for the purposes of this analysis, Project GHG emissions are quantified and compared to the thresholds issued by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which is an association of the air pollution control officers from all 35 local air quality agencies throughout California, including the MBARD. CAPCOA recommends a significance threshold of 900 metric tons annually. This threshold is based on a capture rate of 90 percent of land use development projects, which in turn translates into a 90 percent capture rate of all GHG emissions. The 900 metric ton threshold is considered by CAPCOA to be low enough to capture a substantial fraction of future projects that will be constructed to accommodate future statewide population and economic growth, while setting the emission threshold high enough to exclude small projects that will in aggregate contribute a relatively small fraction of the cumulative statewide GHG emissions.

In the Newhall Ranch decision, following its review of various potential GHG thresholds proposed in an academic study (Crockett, *Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World* [July 2011], 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203), the California Supreme Court identified the use of numeric bright-line thresholds as a potential pathway for compliance with CEQA GHG requirements. The study found numeric bright line thresholds designed to determine when small projects were so small as to not cause a cumulatively considerable impact on global climate change was consistent with CEQA. Specifically, PRC section 21003(f) provides it is a policy of the state that "[a]ll persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for

carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment." The Supreme Court-reviewed study noted, "[s]ubjecting the smallest projects to the full panoply of CEQA requirements, even though the public benefit would be minimal, would not be consistent with implementing the statute in the most efficient, expeditious manner. Nor would it be consistent with applying lead agencies' scarce resources toward mitigating actual significant climate change impacts." (Crockett, *Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World* (July 2011), 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203, 221, 227).

The significance of the Project's GHG emissions is evaluated consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(b)(2) by considering whether the Project complies with applicable plans, policies, regulations, and requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. As previously described, neither the MBARD nor the County has any adopted GHG significance thresholds related to GHG emissions. As such, the CAPCOA recommended significance threshold of 900 metric tons annually will be used.

4.8.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (VIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

GHG emissions-related impacts were assessed in accordance with methodologies recommended by CAPCOA. Where GHG emission quantification was required, emissions were modeled using CalEEMod version 2022.1. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to quantify potential GHG emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. Project construction generated GHG emissions were calculated using CalEEMod model defaults for Monterey County and accounting for construction equipment and trail building techniques described in the Project Description. It is noted that the majority of construction-related activities would be completed by hand crews with small, mechanized equipment and handheld power tools. However, in Project areas where it is possible to use heavy construction equipment, excavators and trail dozers may be utilized to assist the rehabilitation of the trails. The modeling encompasses a scenario that would involve all heavy-duty construction equipment that operates for 10 hours a day. It is unlikely that all the modeled heavy construction machinery would be used, and it is therefore expected that the Project would likely result in less GHG emissions than shown below in Table 4.8-1. As the Project is proposing the construction and re-routing of a pedestrian trail network, operational GHG emissions are discussed qualitatively.

4.8.2.1 Construction Significance Analysis

Construction-related activities that would generate GHG emissions include worker commute trips (some from spike camps and others from further away), haul trucks carrying supplies and materials to and from the Project Site, and off-road construction equipment (e.g., dozers, loaders, excavators). Table 4.8-1 illustrates the specific construction generated GHG emissions that would result from construction of the Project. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease.

Table 4.8-1. Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions Source	CO_2e (Metric Tons/Year)
Construction Year One	72
Total Construction Emissions	72
CAPCOA Significance Threshold	900
Exceed CAPCOA Significance Threshold?	No

Notes: CAPCOA = California Air Pollution Control Officers Association; CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalent

Source: California Emissions Estimator Model version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.

As shown in Table 4.8-1, Project construction would result in the generation of approximately 72 metric tons of CO_2e over the course of construction. This would be under the CAPCOA GHG significance threshold. Also, once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease. This impact is less than significant.

4.8.2.2 Operational Significance Analysis

The Project is proposing the construction and re-routing of a pedestrian trail. The Proposed Project's construction would alleviate the overuse of the existing trail in Garrapata SP and would help to replace unsafe trails. The Project would not contribute to a substantial increase in visitors or operational emissions beyond current conditions. The Project would not result in the development of any new stationary sources; nor would the Project attract additional mobile sources that spend long periods queuing and idling at the site. The Proposed Project will not create a new trail system to attract additional patrons but would repair an already existing tail to provide safer conditions. Additionally, due to already limited onsite parking once construction is complete the Project would not be a source of GHG emissions beyond current conditions. Thus, there would be no impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The County of Monterey and the MBARD have not adopted a GHG reduction plan at the time of this analysis. However, California promulgates several mandates and goals to reduce statewide GHG emissions, including the goal to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030 (California SB 32) and 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050 (Executive Order [EO] S-3-05). The Proposed Project is subject to compliance with SB 32. As discussed previously, construction Project-generated GHG emissions would not surpass the significance threshold of 900 $MTCO_2e$ established by the CAPCOA and would not increase operational GHG emissions beyond current conditions. The 900 $MTCO_2e$ threshold was prepared with the purpose of complying with statewide GHG-reduction efforts. Additionally, once construction of the Project is complete, there would not be any new sources of operational GHG emissions beyond existing conditions. Therefore, there is no impact.

4.8.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

4.9.1 Regulatory Framework

As defined in Title 22 of the CCR, Division 4.5, Chapter 11, Article 3, hazardous materials are substances with certain physical properties that could pose a substantial present or future hazard to human health or the environment when improperly handled, disposed, or otherwise managed. Hazardous materials are commonly used in commercial, agricultural, and industrial applications, as well as residential uses to a limited extent.

Hazardous wastes are any hazardous materials that are discarded, abandoned, or are to be recycled. If improperly handled, hazardous materials and wastes can result in public health hazards if released to the soil or groundwater through airborne releases in vapors, fumes, or dust.

In California, the USEPA has granted most enforcement authority over federal hazardous materials regulations to the California Environmental Protection Agency. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the RWQCBs signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in March 2005 aimed to avoid duplication of efforts among the agencies involved in the regulatory oversight of investigation and cleanup of hazardous wastes. Under the MOA, either DTSC or the RWQCB is assigned to be the oversight agency at the beginning of the investigation and cleanup process.

The Hazardous Material Management Services is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Monterey County (County of Monterey 2023a). The CUPA oversees compliance with regulations regarding the following:

- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory (Business Plan) Program
- California Accidental Release Prevention Program
- Underground Storage Tank Program
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Hazardous Waste Onsite Treatment Program

- Aboveground Storage Tank-Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Program
- Used Oil disposal program
- Household Hazardous Waste disposal program
- Integrated Waste Management Programs/ Recycling program
- Abandoned Vehicles program
- Storm Water- NPDES compliance program
- Asbestos/Lead-based Paint program, and
- Incident Response program.

4.9.1.1 Hazardous Materials Onsite

According to the DTSC EnviroStor database, the nearest hazardous material cleanup site is approximately 0.2 miles south of the Proposed Project Site. This site has been cleaned and there have been no more traces of contamination found in fresh or seawater at or near the site and no vapors have been identified.

The types of materials used and stored in Garrapata SP that could be hazardous include fluids such as motor vehicle and mechanical equipment fuels, oils, and other lubricants. DPR maintains storage facilities for fuels and lubricant within the park unit. No storage facilities, or other structures or industrial sites that could contain hazardous materials are located at the site of the Proposed Project.

4.9.1.2 Airports

Four airports exist throughout Monterey County (County of Monterey 2010c). Of these, the Monterey Regional Airport located about 9.91 miles north of the Project Site is the closest airport in the County to the site (Google Earth 2023). The Proposed Project is not within an airport land use zone/plan, or within two miles of a public airport or private air strip.

4.9.1.3 Schools

The closest school to the Proposed Project Site is Carmel Middle school, within the Carmel Unified School District, located 4.5 miles away.

4.9.1.4 Fire

The Garrapata SP is designated as a State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) describes the fire hazard severity for Garrapata SP as high (CAL FIRE 2023). The nearest CAL FIRE station is Carmel Highlands CAL FIRE, 3 miles from the Proposed Project Site.

4.9.2 Hazards and Hazardous Materials (IX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project could require the use of certain hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, lubricants, or other fluids associated with the operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. Generally, these materials would be contained within vessels engineered for safe storage. Large quantities of these materials would not be stored at or transported to the Proposed Project Site; however, spills, upsets, or other construction related accidents could result in an inadvertent release of fuel or other hazardous substances into the environment.

Integration of **SPR HAZ-1** and **SPR HYDRO-1** would ensure that adverse impacts from these incidents remain at a less than significant level.

SPR HAZ-1 **Spill Prevention and Response.** Prior to the start of onsite construction activities, the contractor will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the Project Site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

During the construction of the Proposed Project, hazardous substances could be released to the environment from construction-related vehicles or equipment fluid spills or leaks. While heavy equipment, such as mini excavators and trail dozers, is proposed where able, the majority of the construction and decommissioning work to the trails will be done by hand construction due to limited access and steep terrain. Hazardous substances would be limited to the construction staging and parking areas, which are proposed at an access point from Highway 1. Integration of Project requirements **SPR HAZ-1** and **SPR HYDRO-1** listed above would ensure that the risk to onsite workers, the public, and the environment remains at a less than significant level.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

As noted in the Environmental Setting above, there are no schools within 0.25 miles of the Project Site. No impact would occur from implementation of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No part of Garrapata SP is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5. No areas within the Proposed Project Site are currently restricted or known to have hazardous materials present. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project Site?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is not located within an airport land use zone/plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a private air strip. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard to people residing or working in the area. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would occur primarily east of State Highway 1 and away from access routes in/out of the park. Therefore, the potential impact would be less than significant for impacting emergency response/evacuation plans.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project Site is in a rural area intended for recreation use (with no structures in the immediate vicinity) and is designated by the state as within a very high fire hazard zone (CAL FIRE 2023). Garrapata SP is regularly used for recreational hiking. The Proposed Project will not change the existing and intended use or access of the State Park amenities by the public. According to the DPR Trail Handbook, trail dozers and mini excavators can be used to construct or restore the trails and would be utilized by the Proposed Project where feasible. While most of the Project would be constructed by hand crews due to the steep terrain and limited access, construction equipment could become hot with extended use and would be in close proximity to flammable vegetation. Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts and/or rocks could generate sparks, resulting in a fire. Integration of **SPRs HAZ-2** through **HAZ-5**, Wildfire Avoidance and Response (See Chapter 2) would ensure that impacts from wildfire remain less than significant.

SPR HAZ-2 **Wildfire Avoidance and Response.** Prior to the start of construction, the trail construction manager will develop a Fire Safety Plan for DPR approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both CAL FIRE and local fire department(s).

SPR HAZ-3 **Wildfire Avoidance and Response**. All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers onsite. Construction crews will park vehicles in an area without flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews will park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.

SPR HAZ-4 **Wildfire Avoidance and Response**. DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Project Site, which allows direct contact with CAL FIRE and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.

SPR HAZ-5 **Wildfire Avoidance and Response.** Under dry conditions, an available water resource or fire suppressant will be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.

4.9.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPRs HAZ-1** through **HAZ-5** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

4.10.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located in the Santa Lucia Hydrologic Unit of the Central Coast Hydrologic Planning Area (Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board [CCRWQCB] 2019). The USGS map depicts nine streams that traverse Garrapata SP which empty into the federally protected Pacific Ocean waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. These streams include Soberanes Creek, Granite Creek, Doud Creek, Jobernales Stream, Mal Paso Creek, and four unnamed streams. Garrapata Creek is located just to the south of the State Park boundaries (California Office of Emergency Services 2021). There are no major groundwater basins located along the Big Sur coast.

The Proposed Project is not located within a 100-year flood zone, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (2017). All streams in the Proposed Project Site are subject to an increase in surface water flows from precipitation and runoff during storm events.

The Proposed Project Site falls under the jurisdiction of CCRWQCB, which regulates water quality in the region and provides water quality standards and management criteria as required by the CWA (CCRWQCB 2019). These standards and criteria are identified in the 2019 Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Coast Region. The Proposed Project would comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan. This Proposed Project would not involve the development or rehabilitation of sewage or water systems.

According to the ARD for the Project that was prepared by ECORP (ECORP 2023), there is a total of 0.087 acres of potential Waters of the U.S. that were delineated within the Proposed Project Site. Additionally, the Project Site supports 0.033 acres of wetland areas that meet the CCC one-parameter wetland criteria. More information regarding the delineated wetlands can be found in Appendix B of this report.

4.10.2 Hydrology and Water Quality (X) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project involves the rehabilitation or construction of trail segments within Garrapata SP. Proposed trail work includes but is not limited to trail realignments, trail surfacing, new trail section construction, and restoration of the existing Rocky Ridge Trail to its natural condition. As described in the Environmental Setting above, this Project does not involve the development or rehabilitation of sewage or water systems. Proposed ground-disturbing activities could temporarily produce sediments that contaminate nearby surface waters; however, existing trail segments with poor drainage would be improved to reduce erosion or sedimentation problems. Other temporary impacts to water quality could result from releases of fuels or other fluids from equipment during the construction process. However, as mentioned previously in this document, heavy equipment is only proposed where safe, but most construction and decommissioning work to the trails will be done by hand due to limited access and steep terrain. Hazardous substances would be limited to the construction staging and parking areas, which are proposed at an access point from Highway 1.

A SWPPP would be required for this Project since the total area of surface disturbance exceeds one acre. The SWPPP would include DPR-approved BMPs. Incorporation of **MM BIO-11**, **SPR HYD-1** through **HYD-4** as well as trail Design Standards applied to the Project would ensure the potential for adverse impacts to surface waters remain at a less than significant level.

SPR HYD-1 **Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention.** Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, DPR will prepare and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for CCRWQCB approval that identifies temporary BMPs (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPCP), as appropriate.

SPR HYD-2 **Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention.** The Project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan.

SPR HYD-3 **Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention.** All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.

SPR HYD-4 Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention. If construction activities extend into the rainy season or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the contractor will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. All erosion control measures must be wildlife friendly and will not pose a threat for species to become entangled in netting.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No major aquifers or pre-existing wells exist within the Proposed Project Site. The Project would not utilize any groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. No impact would occur with implementation of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒

i) **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Existing drainage patterns within the Proposed Project Site would not be altered in a manner that would significantly increase erosion or siltation. Construction of the new trail will be required to navigate some steep sections of hillside and cross small drainages. The structures will include rock retaining walls, wood retaining walls, interlocking wood steps, armored drainage crossings, and switchbacks. The existing Rocky Ridge Trail would be restored to natural conditions. Therefore, the trail segments with poor drainage would be improved to reduce erosion or sedimentation problems. Incorporation of **MM BIO-12** and **SPR HYD-1** (above) into the Project would ensure sediment laden runoff produced by construction activities remains at a less than significant level.

ii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The drainage patterns would not be altered in a manner that would significantly increase the rate or amount of surface runoff or result in onsite or offsite flooding. Any impact would be less than significant.

iii) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Proposed Project will comply with DPR Trail Design Standards and would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No stormwater drainage system is planned in association with identified trail improvements. Therefore, there is a less than significant impact from this Project.

iv) **No Impact.** As discussed in the Environmental Setting above, the Proposed Project Site is not located in a FEMA 100-year flood zone. The Proposed Project would neither place structures nor change the landscape in a way that would impede flows. No impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Some portions of the trail are located in areas that could be inundated by either a seiche or a tsunami. Some Project locations could be subject to mudflows or landslides during severe weather events. However, these are existing conditions and Project implementation would not introduce potential new pollutants to the park. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

As described in a) above, temporary impacts to water quality could result from ground-disturbing activities that produce sediments and through releases of fuels or other fluids from equipment during the

construction process. While heavy equipment is proposed where feasible, the majority of construction and decommissioning work to the trails will be done by hand due to limited access and steep terrain. Hazardous substances would be limited to the construction staging and parking areas, which are proposed at an access point from Highway 1. The potential for the Project to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan is less than significant. Nevertheless, incorporation of **SPR HYD-1** (see Section 2 *Project Description* and *Hazards and Hazardous Materials* above) into the Proposed Project would ensure that any adverse impacts to surface waters remain less than significant impact.

4.10.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR HYD-1** through **HYD-4** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.11 Land Use and Planning

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

Garrapata SP is located within the unincorporated area of Monterey County, which consists of 3,300 square miles. The County directly administrates land use and planning policies within its boundaries with the exception of state, federal and tribal lands. The County divides itself into fourteen areas for planning purposes defined as Area Plans (County of Monterey 2023b, 2010b). Garrapata SP is located in the Big Sur LUP. This is a standalone policy document integrating the General Plan goals, objectives, and policies with those necessary to comply with the CCA. While the park is not subject to the Monterey General Plan, it is subject to the Coastal Plan/LUP. The Big Sur Coast LUP was adopted by Monterey County on November 5, 1985, and certified by the CCC on April 10, 1986, and amended on January 13, 2016.

DPR sometimes prepares Resource Management and General Development Plans for directing the long-range development and management of a park by providing broad policy and program guidance. However, there has not been a plan established for Garrapata SP (DPR 2023a).

4.11.2 Land Use and Planning (XI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not divide an established community because none exist within the boundaries of Garrapata SP. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Garrapata SP, as noted above, is located within the California Coastal Zone. Development projects within the Coastal Zone require a CDP. Monterey County has an LCP certified by the Coastal Commission and assumes responsibility for issuing CDPs. The LCP for the area is the Big Sur LUP and would be the primary plan that pertains to the Project Site, as there is no approved State Park General Development Plan for Garrapata SP. DPR designed the Proposed Project for consistency with the LCP and as noted in Section 2.9, it will acquire necessary permits prior to implementing any Project components. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

4.11.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.12 Mineral Resources

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Though various minerals have been mined in Monterey County during the past century, mining operations at the current time consist almost exclusively of the extraction and processing of rock, sand, and earth products for use in construction and landscaping. According to the Big Sur LUP, the Big Sur area has a number of sites of historic and potential mineral resources.

No other significant mineral resources have been identified within the boundaries of the park units and no other known past mining activities have occurred at Garrapata SP (DOC 2023d). DPR policy does not permit the commercial extraction of mineral resources due to impacts to resources and in accordance with PRC § 5001.65.

4.12.2 Mineral Resources (XII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

There are no known mineral resources or locally important mineral resources located within the Garrapata SP. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would not change land use activities on the site and would therefore not result in the loss of availability of any mineral resources. As stated in the Environmental Setting above, under PRC § 5001.65, mining within any unit of the State Park System is prohibited. There would be no impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

See discussion (a) above. There would be no impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.12.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.13 Noise

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

4.13.1.1 Noise Fundamentals

Noise is generally defined as sound that is loud, disagreeable, or unexpected. The selection of a proper noise descriptor for a specific source is dependent on the spatial and temporal distribution, duration, and fluctuation of the noise. The noise descriptors most often encountered when dealing with traffic, community, and environmental noise include the average equivalent noise level (L_{eq}), the average daily noise level (L_{dn}), and the community noise equivalent level (CNEL). The L_{eq} is a measure of ambient noise, while the L_{dn} and CNEL are measures of community noise. Each is applicable to this analysis and defined as follows:

- **L_{eq}** is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
- **L_{dn}** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 10 A-weighted decibels (dBA) "weighting" added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the nighttime. The logarithmic effect of these additions is that a 60 dBA 24-hour L_{eq} would result in a measurement of 66.4 dBA L_{dn}.
- **CNEL** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 5-dBA weighting during the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and a 10-dBA weighting added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the evening and nighttime, respectively.

Noise can be generated by several sources, including mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks and airplanes, and stationary sources, such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations.

Sound spreads (propagates) uniformly outward in a spherical pattern, and the sound level decreases (attenuates) at a rate of approximately 6 decibels (dB) for each doubling of distance from a stationary or point source. Sound from a line source, such as a highway, propagates outward in a cylindrical pattern, often referred to as cylindrical spreading. Sound levels attenuate at a rate of approximately 3 dB for each doubling of distance from a line source, such as a roadway, depending on ground surface characteristics (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2011). Soft surfaces, such as soft dirt or grass, can absorb sound, so an excess ground-attenuation value of 1.5 dB per doubling of distance is normally assumed (FHWA 2011).

The manner in which older structures in California were constructed generally provides a reduction of exterior-to-interior noise levels of about 20 to 25 dBA with closed windows (Caltrans 2002). The exterior-to-interior reduction of newer structures is generally 30 dBA or more (Harris Miller, Miller & Hanson Inc. 2006).

Human Response to Noise

The human response to environmental noise is subjective and varies considerably from individual to individual. Noise in the community has often been cited as a health problem, not in terms of actual physiological damage, such as hearing impairment, but in terms of inhibiting general well-being and contributing to undue stress and annoyance. The health effects of noise in the community arise from interference with human activities, including sleep, speech, recreation, and tasks that demand concentration or coordination. Hearing loss can occur at the highest noise intensity levels.

Noise environments and consequences of human activities are usually well represented by median noise levels during the day or night or over a 24-hour period. Environmental noise levels are generally considered low when the CNEL is below 60 dBA, moderate in the 60- to 70-dBA range, and high, above 70 dBA. Examples of low daytime levels are isolated, natural settings with noise levels as low as 20 dBA and quiet, suburban, residential streets with noise levels around 40 dBA. Noise levels above 45 dBA at night can disrupt sleep. Examples of moderate-level noise environments are urban residential or semi-

commercial areas (typically 55 to 60 dBA) and commercial locations (typically 60 dBA). People may consider louder environments adverse, but most will accept the higher levels associated with noisier urban residential or residential-commercial areas (60 to 75 dBA) or dense urban or industrial areas (65 to 80 dBA). Regarding increases in dBA, the following relationships should be noted in understanding this analysis:

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1.0 dBA cannot be perceived by humans.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3.0-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference.
- A change in level of at least 5.0 dBA is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected. An increase of 5.0 dBA is typically considered substantial.

Sensitive Noise Receptors

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. Residential dwellings are of primary concern because of the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to both interior and exterior noise levels. Additional land uses such as parks, historic sites, cemeteries, and recreation areas are considered sensitive to increases in exterior noise levels. Schools, churches, hotels, libraries, and other places where low interior noise levels are essential are also considered noise-sensitive land uses.

The nearest noise sensitive receptors to the Project Site are residences located north of the Project Site, approximately 1.20 miles away.

4.13.2 Vibration Sources and Characteristics

Ground vibration can be measured in several ways to quantify the amplitude of vibration produced, including through peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean square velocity. These velocity measurements measure maximum particle at one point or the average of the squared amplitude of the signal, respectively. Vibration impacts on people can be described as the level of annoyance and can vary depending on an individual's sensitivity. Generally, low-level vibrations may cause window rattling but do not pose any threats to the integrity of buildings or structures.

4.13.3 Existing Ambient Noise Environment

The Project Site is the existing Garrapata SP, which provides recreational amenities to the community and neighboring cities. The surrounding area is mostly State Park land and California coastline, within a relatively quiet surrounding area. The hiking trails and coastal views attract tourists, which may be a source of noise. Additionally, mobile sources of noise, especially cars and trucks traveling along State Highway 1, are also a common and significant source of noise in the Project Site. Approximately 1.5 miles north of the Project Site there are clusters of residences on the Carmel Highlands that may be a source of noise in the general area.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard 12.9-2013/Part 3 "Quantities and Procedures for Description and Measurement of Environmental Sound – Part 3: Short-Term Measurements with an Observer Present" provides a table of approximate background sound levels in L_{dn}, daytime L_{eq}, and nighttime L_{eq}, based on land use and population density. The ANSI standard estimation divides land uses into six distinct categories. Descriptions of these land use categories, along with the typical daytime and nighttime levels, are provided in Table 4.13-1. At times, one could reasonably expect the occurrence of periods that are both louder and quieter than the levels listed in the table. ANSI notes, "*95% prediction interval [confidence interval] is on the order of +/- 10 dB*." The majority of the Project Site would be considered ambient noise Category 5 or 6.

Table 4.13-1. American National Standards Institute Standard 12.9-2013/Part 3 A-weighted Sound Levels Corresponding to Land Use and Population Density

Category	Land Use	Description	People per Square Mile	dBA		
				Typical L_{dn}	Day L_{eq}	Night L_{eq}
1	Noisy Commercial & Industrial Areas and Very Noisy Residential Areas	Very heavy traffic conditions, such as in busy, downtown commercial areas; at intersections for mass transportation or other vehicles, including elevated trains, heavy motor trucks, and other heavy traffic; and at street corners where many motor buses and heavy trucks accelerate.	63,840	67	66	58
2	Moderate Commercial & Industrial Areas and Noisy Residential Areas	Heavy traffic areas with conditions similar to Category 1, but with somewhat less traffic; routes of relatively heavy or fast automobile traffic, but where heavy truck traffic is not extremely dense.	20,000	62	61	54
3	Quiet Commercial, Industrial Areas, and Normal Urban & Noisy Suburban Residential Areas	Light traffic conditions where no mass-transportation vehicles and relatively few automobiles and trucks pass, and where these vehicles generally travel at moderate speeds; residential areas and commercial streets, and intersections, with little traffic, compose this category.	6,384	57	55	49
4	Quiet Urban & Normal Suburban Residential Areas	These areas are similar to Category 3, but for this group, the background is either distant traffic or is unidentifiable; typically, the population density is one-third the density of Category 3.	2,000	52	50	44

Table 4.13-1. American National Standards Institute Standard 12.9-2013/Part 3 A-weighted Sound Levels Corresponding to Land Use and Population Density

Category	Land Use	Description	People per Square Mile	dBA		
				Typical L_{dn}	Day L_{eq}	Night L_{eq}
5	Quiet Residential Areas	These areas are isolated, far from significant sources of sound, and may be situated in shielded areas, such as a small-wooded valley.	638	47	45	39
6	Very Quiet Sparse Suburban or rural Residential Areas	These areas are similar to Category 4 but are usually in sparse suburban or rural areas; and, for this group, there are few if any nearby sources of sound.	200	42	40	34

Note: dBA = A-weighted decibels; L_{dn} = average daily noise level; L_{eq} = average equivalent noise level

Source: The American National Standards Institute 2013

4.13.4 Noise (XIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

4.13.4.1 Onsite Construction Noise

Construction noise associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary and would vary depending on the specific nature of the activities being performed. Noise generated would primarily be associated with the operation of off-road equipment, handheld saws, construction vehicle traffic, and any other loud machinery associated with onsite construction activities. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., site preparation, excavation, paving). Noise generated by construction equipment, including excavators, pile drivers, and industrial saws, can reach high levels. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Other primary sources of acoustical disturbance would be random incidents, which would last less than one minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts). During construction, exterior noise levels could negatively affect sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the

construction site. It is noted that the majority of construction-related activities would be completed by hand crews with small, mechanized equipment and handheld power tools. However, in Project areas where it is possible to use heavy construction equipment, excavators and trail dozers may be utilized to assist the rehabilitation of the trails.

The nearest permanent noise sensitive receptors to the Project Site are residences located north of the Project Site, approximately 1.20 miles distant. Per Chapter 10.60 of the County's Municipal Code, it is prohibited for any loud and unreasonable sounds, such as the construction noise, to occur any day of the week during nighttime hours from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The Project would adhere to the requirements and limitations of the County's Municipal Code. The County does not promulgate a specific numeric threshold pertaining to the noise associated with construction. This is due to the fact that construction noise is temporary, short term, intermittent in nature, and would cease on completion of the Project.

To estimate the worst-case onsite construction noise levels that may occur at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors and in order to evaluate the potential health-related effects (physical damage to the ear) from construction noise, the construction equipment noise levels were calculated using the FHWA's Roadway Noise Construction Model and compared against the construction-related noise level threshold established in the Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Noise Exposure prepared in 1998 by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NIOSH identifies a noise level threshold based on the duration of exposure to the source. The NIOSH construction-related noise level threshold starts at 85 dBA for more than 8 hours per day; for every 3-dBA increase, the exposure time is cut in half. This reduction results in noise level thresholds of 88 dBA for more than 4 hours per day, 92 dBA for more than 1 hour per day, 96 dBA for more than 30 minutes per day, and up to 100 dBA for more than 15 minutes per day. For the purposes of this analysis, the lowest, more conservative threshold of 85 dBA L_{eq} is used as an acceptable threshold for construction noise at the nearby sensitive receptors.

As noted above, the closest residence is approximately 1.20 miles (6,320 feet) distant from where the trail construction would occur. The anticipated short-term construction noise levels generated for the necessary equipment for each phase of construction are presented in Table 4.13-2.

Table 4.13-2. Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptors			
Construction Phase	**Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level @ Closest Noise Sensitive Receptor (dBA L_{eq})**	**Construction Noise Standard (dBA L_{eq})**	**Exceeds Standards?**
Trail Construction	43.3	85	No

Notes: CalEEMod = California Emissions Estimator Model; dBA = A-weighted decibels
L_{eq} = The equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
Construction equipment used during construction derived from CalEEMod. CalEEMod is designed to calculate air pollutant emissions from construction activity and contains default construction equipment and usage parameters for typical construction projects based on several construction surveys conducted in order to identify such parameters.

Source: Construction noise levels were calculated by ECORP Consulting, Inc. using the Federal Highway Administration Roadway Noise Construction Model (Federal Highway Administration 2006). Refer to Appendix E for Model Data Outputs.

As shown in Table 4.13-2, construction activities would not exceed the NIOSH noise standards. It is noted that construction noise was modeled on a worst-case basis. It is very unlikely that all pieces of construction equipment would be operating at the same time for the various phases of Project construction as well as at the point closest to residences. **SPR NOI-1** through **SPR NOI-3** will ensure impacts resulting from construction noise will remain at a less than significant level.

4.13.4.2 Offsite Construction Worker Trips

Project construction would result in additional traffic on adjacent roadways over the period that construction occurs. According to the CalEEMod, which is used to predict the number of construction-related automotive trips, the maximum number of Project construction trips traveling to and from the Project Site during the construction phase would not be expected to exceed 46 daily trips in total. According to Caltrans Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol (2013), a doubling of traffic on a roadway is required to result in an increase of 3 dB (outside of the laboratory, a 3-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference). The Project Site is accessible from Highway 1, which traverses the California Coastline near the Project Site. According to Caltrans (2021), the Garrapata Creek Bridge portion of Highway 1 accommodates an average of 6,400 average daily trips (ADT). The Garrapata Creek Bridge is directly adjacent to the Project Site and thus is an accurate ADT count for the roadways that the Proposed Project's trail construction crew would traverse. Most (if not all) of the trail construction crews would utilize the local California Conservation Corps spike camp location and would not be traveling long distances to reach the Project Site. Thus, Project construction would not result in a doubling of traffic, and therefore its contribution to existing traffic noise would not be perceptible. Additionally, it is noted that construction is temporary, and these trips would cease upon completion of the Project and therefore the impact is less than significant.

4.13.4.3 Operational Onsite Stationary Noise

As previously described, the Project would repair, and in some places reroute, an existing pedestrian trail totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. Once construction is complete the operational noise as a result of activity on the Project Site would be similar to current conditions. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

4.13.4.4 Operational Offsite Traffic Noise

There would be no increase in operational traffic for the Project as it is proposing the construction and re-routing of a pedestrian trail network. The Proposed Project's construction would alleviate the overuse of the existing trail network in Garrapata SP and would help to replace unsafe trails. The Project would not contribute to a substantial increase in visitors or operational emissions beyond current conditions. No impact would occur. **SPR NOI-1** through **SPR NOI-3** would be applied to the Project to further reduce noise related impacts..

SPR NOI-1 **Noise Exposure.** Internal combustion engines used for Project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts, etc.) whenever necessary.

SPR NOI-2 **Noise Exposure.** The contractor will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.

SPR NOI-3 **Noise Exposure.** Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. (check contract docs for time restrictions).)

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction Vibration Analysis

Construction on the Project Site would have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary groundborne vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and the operations involved.

Construction-related ground vibration is normally associated with impact equipment such as jackhammers, and the operation of some heavy-duty construction equipment, such as dozers and trucks. It is not anticipated that pile drivers would be necessary during Project construction. Vibration decreases rapidly with distance, and the Project is a linear facility that would disperse construction activities throughout the site and would not be concentrated at the point closest to sensitive receptors. Groundborne vibration levels associated with construction equipment are summarized in Table 4.13-3.

Table 4.13-3. Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment Type	Peak Particle Velocity at 25 Feet (inches per second)
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Loaded Trucks	0.076
Jackhammer	0.035
Small Bulldozer/Tractor	0.003

Source: California Department of Transportation 2020; Federal Transit Administration 2018

Recommended standard of 0.3 inch per second PPV with respect to the prevention of structural damage for older residential buildings is used as a threshold. This is also the level at which vibrations may begin to annoy people in buildings.

The nearest offsite structure of concern to where the construction will occur on the trails, with regard to groundborne vibrations, is a telephone pole located approximately 295 feet from the start of the Project Site.

Based on the representative vibration levels presented for various construction equipment types in Table 4.13-3 and the construction vibration assessment methodology published by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) (2018), it is possible to estimate the potential Project construction vibration levels. The FTA provides the following equation:

$$[PPV_{equip} = PPV_{ref} \times (25/D)^{1.5}]$$

Table 4.13-4 presents the expected Project related vibration levels at a distance of 295 feet.

Table 4.13-4. Construction Vibration Levels at 295 Feet

Receiver Peak Particle Velocity Levels (inches per second)					Peak Vibration	Threshold	Exceed Threshold
Large Bulldozer, Caisson Drilling, & Hoe Ram	Loaded Trucks	Jackhammer	Pile Driver	Vibratory Roller			
0.0022	0.0019	0.0009	0.0042	0.0052	0.0052	*0.3*	**No**

As shown in Table .13-4, vibration as a result of construction activities would not exceed 0.3 PPV. Thus, Project construction would not exceed the recommended threshold. This impact is less than significant.

Operational Vibration Impacts

Th Proposed Project aims to re-route and create a new pedestrian trail in Garrapata SP. The operations would not include the use of any stationary equipment that would result in excessive vibration levels. Therefore, the Project would not result in groundborne vibration impacts during operations. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project Site to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Site is located approximately 9.91 miles south of the Monterey Regional Airport. The Project Site is located outside of the Airport Noise Contour Figure within the General Plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

4.13.5 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR NOI-1** through **SPR NOI-3** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.14 Population and Housing

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

Monterey County has a population of approximately 432,858 in 2022 (U.S. Census Bureau). The closest residential area is the community of Carmel-By-The-Sea, located approximately 4 driving miles north of Garrapata and the unincorporated community of Carmel Highlands, which is 1.5 miles north. Garrapata SP is a recreational facility; the development of permanent housing is not a planned use within the park.

4.14.2 Population and Housing (XIV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project proposes the construction of a new pedestrian trail project totaling approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The Project does not propose any elements that would induce population growth in the area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No housing would be moved or removed for the Project. No persons would be displaced either temporarily or permanently. There would be no impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.14.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.15 Public Services

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

Public services include fire and police protection, schools, parks, and other public facilities. Garrapata SP is located along State Highway 1, approximately 4 driving miles south of Carmel-By-The-Sea and 10 miles southwest of the City of Monterey. The Proposed Project Site benefits from existing public services such as fire and law enforcement protection.

4.15.1.1 Police Services

DPR rangers assigned to Garrapata SP are Peace Officer Standards and Training-certified law enforcement officers and provide year-round law enforcement within park unit boundaries (DPR 2023b). The Monterey County Sheriff's Office in Monterey, about 12 miles north of Garrapata SP, serves the coastal areas of

Monterey County. The Monterey County Sheriff would assist DPR with any emergency and law enforcement issues within the boundaries of the parks. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) serves as the primary law enforcement presence on interstates, state routes, and county roads. The CHP staffs a station in Salinas, approximately 20 miles northeast of the Garrapata SP. The CHP would provide assistance along public roadways in the vicinity of the park unit including Highway 1.

4.15.1.2 Fire Services

CAL FIRE has primary jurisdiction for fire suppression in SRAs, including units of the State Park System (CAL FIRE 2022). The nearest CAL FIRE station is Carmel Highlands CAL FIRE, 3 miles from Garrapata SP. The next closest fire station is the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade, at 38000 Palo Colorado Road, Carmel, approximately 5 miles south from Garrapata SP (Local Agency Formation Commission 2023).

4.15.1.3 Schools

The closest school to the Proposed Project Site is Carmel Middle school, within the Carmel Unified School District, located 4.5 miles away.

4.15.1.4 Parks and Other Public Facilities

Many parks and recreational facilities that serve local residents and visitors are located throughout Monterey County. Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is located approximately 2.8 miles north of Garrapata; Carmel River State Beach is located approximately 3.9 miles north of Garrapata; and Big Sur is located approximately 8.5 miles south of the Proposed Project Site. Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, an emergency medical facility, is located in Monterey approximately 17.5 miles north of the Project Site.

4.15.2 Public Services (XV) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☒	☐
Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police Protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other Public Facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

4.15.2.1 Fire Protection

Less Than Significant Impact.

No components of the Proposed Project would contribute to a substantial increase of visitation and the level of required public services is expected to remain relatively static; however, use of construction equipment in the vicinity of flammable vegetation at the Proposed Project Site could present an increased risk of fire that could result in additional demands on CAL FIRE and local fire response teams. Any impact on services would be temporary and nothing in the Proposed Project scope would contribute to the need for an increase in the level of fire protection after construction is complete.

Integration of **SPR HAZ-2** through **HAZ-5**, Wildfire Avoidance and Response (See Section 2) would further reduce the potential impact to fire protection services to a less than significant level.

4.15.2.2 Police Services

Less Than Significant Impact. As noted in the Environmental Setting, DPR rangers with law enforcement authority patrol Garrapata SP with emphasis on public use areas. DPR rangers have full law enforcement authority and only require assistance from local police as backup for unusual situations. No additional demands on rangers or local police are expected as a result of the Proposed Project. There would be no impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.15.2.3 Parks, Schools, or Other Public Facilities

No Impact.

There would be no impacts to schools, other parks, or other public facilities, as a result of the Proposed Project. There would be no impact with implementation of the Proposed Project.

4.15.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required.

4.16 Recreation

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

Garrapata SP is located on the Monterey Coast, just south of the City of Carmel-By-The-Sea. DPR's mission is to "provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to

preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation" (DPR 2003).

DPR has installed trails within Garrapata SP since it became part of the State Park System in 1985. The Project Site currently features approximately 9.4 miles of trails, many of which are user-created and considered by DPR to be non-system trails. Trails within the Project Site are limited to pedestrian-use only. There are also several existing overlooks with benches, and numerous other unimproved overlook sites. There are currently no permanent restroom facilities or other visitor serving facilities within Garrapata SP.

4.16.2 Recreation (XVI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project would include approximately 5 miles of new, re-routed trail and 3 miles of decommissioned trail. The Proposed Project is not expected to create much (if any increase) to the existing visitor numbers in part because parking availability won't change in this popular location, but it may divert users from other areas of the park or otherwise facilitate lengthier stays at the park. Implementation of the Proposed Project would enhance the existing trails within Garrapata SP as it would spread out trail use on the east side of Garrapata SP so hikers would not be concentrated on the Soberanes Canyon Trail, which is currently overused. In addition, the Proposed Project would replace the existing Rocky Ridge Trail with a trail that is safe for public use. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to result in increased use of adjacent facilities to a level that would result in physical degradation of those facilities. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact to recreational facilities.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project is in fact a recreational facility located within an ecologically and culturally sensitive setting. However, it was sited specifically to minimize impacts to natural resources and to avoid adverse physical effects on the environment to the maximum extent possible. Refer to the Biological Resources

and Cultural Resources Sections above for specific discussions about the Project's potential effect on those resources. The Proposed Project will create a formal trail in an area that currently has a number of volunteer trails and will return informal trails to natural conditions. The proposed construction of recreational trails on the Project Site has the potential to adversely affect the environment by impacting wetlands, special-status species, and spreading invasive plant species. **PSR BIO-1** and **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-11** and P **SPR CUL-1** and **PSRs CUL-2** through **CUL-3** as outlined in Section 4.5, would ensure any potential impacts remain at a less than significant level.

4.16.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **PSR BIO-1** and **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-11** and **SPR CUL-1** and **PSRs CUL-2** through **CUL-3** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.17 Transportation

4.17.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located within the boundaries of Garrapata SP, on the Monterey Coast. Garrapata SP is accessed from State Highway 1, which follows the Big Sur coastline. There are 19 existing vehicle turnouts along the west side of State Highway 1 which are utilized by park visitors for scenic viewing and parking to access trails within the Project Site. The Proposed Project is accessed by a turnout on the east side of Highway 1. There is minimal parking at the turnout with direct dirt trail access to the Project Site.

4.17.2 Transportation (XVII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project is limited to improvements to pedestrian-only trails within Garrapata SP. The Project does not include any improvements to State Highway 1 or existing vehicle turnouts along the highway right-of-way and would not add to the current circulation system within the Project Site. In addition, the Proposed Project does not involve changes in land use or affect transportation policies. Construction of the Proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in truck trips to deliver materials and machinery to the site. Additionally, there will also be a slight addition of vehicle trips from the work crew during construction work hours (between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.). However, the temporary increase in trips from Project related vehicles and trucks is not expected to substantially impact the load on or capacity of Highway 1. The Proposed Project would be consistent with Caltrans Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan (Caltrans 2004). Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with a

program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, and any impacts would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Section 15064.3. of the CEQA Guidelines (Determining the Significance of Transportation Impacts) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Generally, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. VMT refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. Anticipated construction activities that would take place during Project construction may result in a temporary increase in VMT as a result of the movement of construction personnel, equipment, and materials to and from the Proposed Project Site; however, these impacts are temporary in nature and will not substantially increase the existing VMT associated with Garrapata SP. As stated above, the Proposed Project is limited to improvements to pedestrian only trails within the park and is not expected to create much (if any) increase to the existing number of daily/yearly visitors to the park and therefore would not increase VMT because the popular park is constrained by parking. Therefore, the impact is less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project includes a new trail located within the Garrapata SP (directly off Highway 1) and does not involve any improvements to the roadways located within the park or along Highway 1. Additionally, the site would not cause any incompatible uses with existing conditions. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not result in a change in the availability of emergency access nor create demand for additional points of emergency access. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

4.17.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

This section describes the affected environment and regulatory setting for TCRs in the Project Site. The following analysis of the potential environmental impacts related to TCRs is derived primarily from the following sources:

- Archaeological Resources Inventory Report for the Garrapata State Park-Rocky Ridge Trail Project, Monterey County, California. Report prepared by ECORP 2023;
- Ethnographic overview of the Esselen in California (Hester 1978);
- Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community website (2023);
- Confidential tribal consultation conducted under DPR's departmental policy (Department Notice [DN] No. 2007-05) and Governor's EO B-10-11 between DPR and eight California Native American tribes on the NAHC's list of interested tribes for the region, and
- Confidential tribal consultation record conducted under AB 52.

4.18.1 Environmental Setting

4.18.1.1 Ethnographic, Religious, and Cultural Context

According to the Archaeological Resources Inventory Report prepared for the Project (ECORP 2023), the Project Site lies within the traditional territory of both the Costanoan and Esselen tribes.

Rumsen Ohlone

When the Spanish arrived in the Bay Area, the local California indigenous population had complex social, ceremonial, political, and economic lifeways that were interconnected with neighboring tribal groups and regions. The Spanish encountered the Ohlone, who lived between the Carquinez Strait and the Monterey Bay area where Europeans first arrived. They are often referred to by the name of their broader linguistic group, Costanoan, which was the name incorrectly bestowed by the Spanish. The word Costanoan comes from the Spanish word *Costanos*, meaning coast people, which was given to the tribes in 1770 when the first mission was established in their traditional tribal territory. The name that the tribe refers to themselves is Ohlone.

The Ohlone represents a group of people who spoke eight separate languages but whose dialects were similar to those of their geographic neighbors. The languages included Karkin, Chochenyo, Ramaytush,

Tamyen, Awaswas, Mutsun, Rumsen, and Chalon. Although ethnographers differentiate the tribes by language and cultural expression, the Native American populations consisted of numerous politically autonomous nations. Moreover, forced displacement and recombination of Native American communities had led to a change in the way cultural affiliation is described and mapped today.

Garrapata SP is within the Rumsen language group of the Ohlone tribe. Rumsen (also written as "Rumsien" in earlier documents) is traditionally spoken in southern Monterey Bay area. Contemporary Rumsen recognize their traditional territory to include the Monterey Peninsula, the Lower Carmel Valley, Salinas, Toro Creek, the coast south of the Carmel River to Alto Colorado Canyon and possibly Andrew Molera (RumsenOhlone.com 2023).

Subsistence patterns included hunting, gathering, and controlled burning to promote growth in the surrounding area. They hunted large animals including black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, antelope, grizzly bears, mountain lion, dog, wildcat, skunk, raccoons, brush rabbits, cottontail, jack rabbits, tree and ground squirrel, woodrat, mouse, and mole. Near the coast, they fished for salmon, a variety of trout, and lamprey. They also fished for sharks, swordfish, mussels, abalone, balanus, and chitons.

The Rumsen located their permanent settlements away from the ocean shore on high ground. Village structures included conical houses of split redwood bark and domed structures thatched with tule, grass, wild alfalfa, ferns, or carrizo. Assembly houses or dance plazas were the center of the village with structures around the periphery. Sweathouses were located along stream banks near villages (Levy 1978).

The basic until of a Costanoan political organization was the tribelet. Each tribelet had a chief and a council of elders. The chief is responsible for feeding visitors, caring for those in need, directing ceremonial activities, leading hunting, fishing, gathering and warfare expeditions (Levy 1978). Overall, the role of the chief and council is to serve as advisor of the community (Levy 1978).

The first contact with the Rumsen by European settlers may have occurred as early as 1602 with Sebestian Vizcaino's expedition in Monterey. By the 1770s and into the early 1800s, Spanish influence gravely impacted the indigenous communities through establishment of Mission San Carlos Borroméo de Carmelo and the Presidio Monterey. Local tribes were forcibly displaced from their homeland and used as slave labor. With the secularization of the mission system by the Mexican government, indigenous people were not able to go back to their original homeland as their home was divided into Mexican ranchos. Many indigenous became manual laborers on the ranchos or assimilated into Mexican culture. Several tribes who were displaced at the missions formed multi-tribal communities to continue to practice traditions and language (Levy 1978). However, these communities gradually saw a decline in their population due to old age, disease, assimilation, genocide by settlers. It is estimated that by 1973, there were as many as 200 descendants from all eight Costanoan language groups (Levy 1978). Today, the Rumsen Costanoan group have descendants who are members of the Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community, Costanoan Rumsen Tribe-Carmel, Ohlone/Costanoan Esselen Nation, Esselen Tribe of Monterey County and KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sure Rancheria.

Esselen

The Proposed Project is immediately north of lands known to be inhabited by the Esselen, a Hokan speaking people (Hester 1978) who inhabited the wooded mountains and central coast environments, including areas of the Carmel Valley, areas south of the City of Monterey, extending south to Junipero Serra Peak, and the Santa Lucia Range (Esselen Tribe 2018). Knowledge of the Esselen was first noted by Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602, who noted the presence of villages both inland and on the coast (Hester 1978).

Distinct cultural practices of the Esselen have been lost and have also been complicated by early documentation being confused or combined with those of neighboring tribes, however, there have been accounts noting the difference between the Esselen and the neighboring Salinan and Costanoan (Hester 1978). Subsistence practices of the neighboring tribes were also likely misattributed to the Esselen, although, these practices are likely similar as they procured resources from similar environments (Hester 1978). Resources noted to have been used include fish, crustaceans, wild game including skunks and rabbits, seeds and nuts, and various plants including roots (Hester 1978). The presence of various bedrock mortar sites in the mountainous regions has been attributed to the heavy reliance of vegetal foods. Chipped stone, ground stone mortar and pestles, and marine foodstuffs (abalone and mussels) identified in the area provide details of Esselen subsistence practices (Hester 1978). This along with archaeologically excavated sites, which include habitation areas, rock shelters, and pictograph areas, have broadened the little information documented of the Esselen.

4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

4.18.2.1 Assembly Bill 52

Effective July 1, 2015, AB 52 amended CEQA to require that: 1) a lead agency provide notice to those California Native American tribes that requested notice of projects proposed by the lead agency; and 2) for any tribe that responded to the notice within 30 days of receipt with a request for consultation, the lead agency must consult with the tribe. Topics that may be addressed during consultation include TCRs, the potential significance of Project impacts, type of environmental document that should be prepared, and possible mitigation measures and Project alternatives.

Section 21073 of the PRC defines California Native American tribes as "a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004." This includes both federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

Section 21074(a) of the PRC defines TCRs for the purpose of CEQA as:

1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes (geographically defined in terms of the size and scope), sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

    a. included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; and/or

b. included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1; and/or

c. a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision © of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Because criteria a and b also meet the definition of a Historical Resource under CEQA, a TCR may also require additional consideration as an Historical Resource. TCRs may or may not exhibit archaeological, cultural, or physical indicators.

Recognizing that California tribes are experts in their TCRs and heritage, AB 52 requires that CEQA lead agencies provide tribes that requested notification an opportunity to consult at the commencement of the CEQA process to identify TCRs. Furthermore, because a significant effect on a TCR is considered a significant impact on the environment under CEQA, consultation is used to develop appropriate avoidance, impact minimization, and mitigation measures.

In accordance with Section 21082.3(c)(1) of the PRC, "… information, including, but not limited to, the location, description, and use of the TCRs, that is submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with subdivision (r) of Section 6254 of, and Section 6254.10 of, the Government Code, and subdivision (d) of Section 15120 of Title 14 of the CCR, without the prior consent of the tribe that provided the information." Therefore, the details of tribal consultation summarized herein are provided in a confidential administrative record and not available for public disclosure without written permission from the tribes.

4.18.2.2 Department of Parks and Recreation Policy 2007-05

In November 2007, DPR issued Policy 2007-05, which sets forth an internal procedure for consultation with Native California Indians regarding activities that affect matters relating to their heritage, sacred sites, and cultural traditions. The intent of Policy 2007-05 is to consult with both federally and non-federally recognized tribes or groups of Native California Indian people.

Policy 2007-05 outlines steps for DPR to engage in open, respectful, ongoing consultation with appropriate Native California Indian tribes or groups in the proper management of areas, places, objects, or burials associated with their heritage, sacred sites, and traditional cultural properties or cultural traditions in the State Park System. It vests the District superintendent of each park district with the primary responsibility for Native American consultation. Under Policy 2007-05, there are nine areas of activity in which consultation is required:

- Acquisition of properties where cultural sites are present;
- During the General Plan process and/or development of Management Plans;

- Planning, design, and implementation of capital outlay and other public works and development projects;
- Issues of concern identified by the tribes;
- Plant and mineral gathering by Native people;
- Access to Native California Indian ceremonial sites;
- Archaeological permitting;
- Mitigation of vandalism and development of protective measures at Native California Indian sites; and
- When using the Native voice in presenting the story of Native California Indian people in park units.

The Policy outlines detailed procedures that guide the consultation process, from initiation to conclusion. Consultation is initiated when DPR contacts tribes from the NAHC's list of tribes for the affected area. Consultation is concluded when:

- the parties to the consultation come to a mutual resolution concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
- either DPR or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that the parties are at an impasse and resolution cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measure(s) of preservation or mitigation.

When a mutual resolution is reached, an MOA may be written and the Project may proceed by implementing the measures agreed upon. If an impasse is reached, written documentation of all efforts and alternatives shall be forwarded to the Departmental Preservation Officer (DPO) for review. The DPO may recommend mitigation or preservation measures for the Project, alternatives to the Project, abandonment of the Project, or proceeding with the Project as planned and shall forward their justified recommendation to the Director for the final measures regarding the Project.

4.18.2.3 Executive Order B-10-11

EO B-10-11 was signed by California Governor Edmond G. Brown Jr. on September 9, 2011. It affirms that the State of California has an important relationship with California Native American Tribes and recognizes the right of these Tribes to exercise sovereign authority over their members and territory.

Under EO B-10-11, the State of California was required to adopt and implement mutually beneficial policies and engage in meaningful consultation between the State of California and the Tribes as sovereign nations, including both federally recognized tribes and other California tribes.

EO B-10-11 established the position of Governor's Tribal Advisor within the Office of the Governor. The Tribal Advisor is responsible for overseeing and implementing effective government-to-government consultation between the administration and Tribes on policies that affect California tribal communities.

The Tribal Advisor serves as a direct link between the Tribes and the Governor of the State of California and facilitates communication and consultations between the Tribes, the Office of the Governor, state agencies, and agency tribal liaisons.

Under EO B-10-11, it is State policy for every state agency and department subject to the Governor's executive control to encourage communication and consultation with California Indian Tribes. Agencies and departments permit elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.

4.18.3 Summary of Tribal Consultation Under EO B-10-11 and DPR Policy 2007-05

Tribal consultation mandated under the regulatory framework of EO B-10-11 is specific to California state agencies, and tribal consultation mandated by DPR Policy 2007-05 is specific to DPR itself. Neither of these two rules mandate identification of TCRs, which are specific to AB 52. However, information gathered from tribal consultation under DN 2007-05 and/or EO B-10-11 can help inform the likelihood for TCRs to occur in the Project Site.

DPR has been in continued consultation with the following tribes on the NAHC's list of tribes for the Project Site, including the following:

- Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe (CRCT)
- KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Costanoan-Ohlone Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria
- Ohlone-Costanoan-Esselen Tribe
- Esselen Tribe of Monterey County

Contact was made by certified letters as well as email correspondence.

Only the CRCT responded in writing regarding their desire to consult on the project as well as be present to monitor aspects of the work. Consultation is ongoing with this Tribe. Ongoing attempts to reach out to the other Tribal groups continue via email, notifying them of the project and seeking input on the plans.

4.18.4 Summary of Tribal Consultation Under Assembly Bill 52

Tribal input was solicited from the above mentioned tribes.

One Tribe responded in writing regarding their desire to consult on the project as well as be present to monitor aspects of the work. Consultation is ongoing with this Tribe. Remote meetings were conducted with another Tribe, and comments were received on the project. Ongoing attempts to reach out to the other Tribal groups continue via email, notifying them of the project and seeking input on the

4.18.4.1 Tribal Cultural Resources

Information about potential impacts to TCRs was drawn from:

1. existing ethnographic maps and information about pre-contact lifeways and settlement patterns;
2. information on archaeological site records obtained from the California Historical Resource Information System and archaeological field survey and site testing conducted by ECORP in 2023; and
3. the tribal consultation record under DN No. 2007-05, Governor's EO B-10-11, and AB52.

4.18.4.2 Archaeological Site Records

According to the records search conducted by the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) and DPR, no cultural resources are within the Study Area. As a result of the 2023 survey, ECORP archaeologists recorded a previously unrecorded segment of the Old Coast Trail within the Study Area as GP-1; however, this segment of the Old Coast Trail is not within the proposed Rocky Ridge Trail Reroute portion of the Study Area. During field survey ECORP revisited some resources which were adjacent to the Study Area including, CA-MNT-185/H, CA-MNT-1040, and CA-MNT-2449.

GP-1 is an approximately 608-foot-long segment of the much longer Old Coast Trail, located approximately 235 feet east of Highway 1 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. The trail is first depicted on the 1880 General Land Office Plat map as an unnamed trail that contours the high table bluffs along the Pacific Ocean coastline. Additional information about cultural resources can be found in Chapter 4.5 of this CEQA document.

4.18.4.3 Sacred Lands File Search

In addition to the records search, ECORP contacted the California NAHC on April 21, 2023 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File for the Study Area. This search determines whether the California Native American tribes within the Study Area have recorded Sacred Lands, because the Sacred Lands File is populated by members of the Native American community with knowledge about the locations of tribal resources. A search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within the Study Area.

4.18.5 Tribal Cultural Resources (XVIII) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR, defined in PRC Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

There is a moderate potential for buried pre-contact archaeological deposits within the Study Area. Excavations that occur in association with development of the Project could affect unknown TCRs buried on the property, and if so, the resulting damage to the resources could be considered a significant impact. However, as the trail was designed to avoid the resource the potential to impact TCRs is less than significant and with implementation of PSRs **TCR-1** and **2** listed below and SPRs and PSRs **CUL-1** through **3** included in the cultural section, the potential impact on known TCRs would be further reduced.

PSR TCR-1 **Tribal Coordination.** Any interested Native American groups should be informed well before construction about Proposed Project Activities that are planned within or near site CA-MNT-2449.

PSR TCR-2 **Avoidance of TCRs.** In coordination with Project Requirement **PSR CUL-1**, at least three weeks in advance of Project construction, the Construction Manager will notify California DPR Archaeologist and any interested Native American groups of the beginning construction date. The interested parties will be provided an opportunity to monitor trail construction during earth moving work.

Prior to construction, a meeting will be held between the construction manager, Project supervisors, construction crews, representatives of any other interested Native American Groups, and a DPR Archaeologist to discuss the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and fence installation along certain portions of the trail alignment.

A DPR Archaeologist, or a qualified professional archaeologist, will work with the construction manager to install temporary fencing and/or flagging around the Environmentally Sensitive Areas at least 7 calendar days prior to initiating any work in the area. The construction manager will contact the DPR archaeologist no less than 14 calendar days prior to the installation date of Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing. No less than one week prior to the installation date, the archaeologist will contact interested Native American groups and offer the opportunity for a tribal member to participate in the Environmentally Sensitive Area fence installation.

Any potential TCRs or any discoveries including human remains that are observed in any location will be subject to the decision process in **PSR CUL-1** and subsequent consultation between the monitoring tribe(s) and DPR to evaluate and, if necessary, treat the discovery to the satisfaction of DPR.

4.18.6 Mitigation Measures

PSRs **TCR-1** and **2** and SPRs and PSRs **CUL-1** through **3** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

4.19.1 Environmental Setting

There is presently no potable water, wastewater, or electrical services within Garrapata SP. There are portable restrooms available on the Soberanes Point Trail. Trash receptacles are provided at the trail gates and DPR personnel collect trash waste from day use facilities and transport it to large bins where it is removed.

4.19.2 Utilities and Service Systems (XIX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would not require new use, construction, or relocation of the following facilities: water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications. Therefore, the Project will have no impact on these services/facilities. No mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

No potable water is presently provided within Garrapata SP. Park users bring drinking water as needed. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

There is presently no potable water, wastewater, or electrical services within Garrapata SP. There are portable toilets available and are serviced by a contractor under DPR. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not generate demand for wastewater services, nor would the Project substantially increase visitor use. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project does not have a solid waste component and would not increase solid waste disposal needs for either park unit. Trucks provided by DPR and/or its Contractor would remove debris from Project-related activities. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

There is presently no potable water, wastewater, or electrical services within Garrapata SP. There are portable restrooms available on the Soberanes Point Trail. The Proposed Project will comply with all federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

4.19.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.20 Wildfire

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

Typically, the California fire season extends from spring to late fall. Fire conditions arise from a combination of hot weather, an accumulation of vegetation, and low moisture content in the air. These conditions, when combined with high winds and years of drought, increase the potential for wildfire to occur. CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection services on private, non-federal lands for the purpose of life, property, and resource protection. Garrapata SP is located within an SRA.

4.20.2 Wildfire (XX) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project Site is located in an isolated location away from urbanized areas or private structures within a very high fire hazard severity zone in an SRA. Work will be within areas that are mostly steep hillside covered with thick vegetation. Construction equipment, such as the mini excavator and trail dozers could become hot with extended use and would be in close proximity to flammable vegetation (under dry conditions). Improperly outfitted exhaust systems or friction between metal parts and rocks could cause sparks. Under dry conditions, which frequently occur in California, any sparks could ignite vegetation and cause a fire. Integration of **SPR HAZ-2** through **HAZ-5** Wildfire Avoidance and Response (see Chapter 2) would ensure that impacts related to wildfire remain less than significant.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose Project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

As described above, the Proposed Project is located within a high fire hazard severity zone in an SRA. The Project does not involve construction of structures but would involve installation of retaining walls, switchbacks, drainage crossing, and interlocking wood steps. The trail would be constructed of non-flammable materials such as decomposed granite. The Proposed Project will have a minimal impact on the vegetation and trees currently found along the alignment and would not expose visitors to an increased wildfire risk. The Proposed Project would implement **SPR HAZ-2** through **HAZ-5** Wildfire Avoidance and Response which would ensure that impacts would remain less than significant. No mitigation is required.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

See discussion above. No new infrastructure is proposed that would exacerbate existing fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts. The maintenance of the Proposed Project Site would be similar to existing conditions and impacts would be less than significant.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

As stated above, although the Proposed Project is located in an SRA classified as very high fire hazard, it would not create a new source of exposure for people or structures to significant risks including flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes. Therefore, the impact is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

4.20.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified and no mitigation measures are required. **SPR HAZ-2** through **HAZ-5** have been applied to the Project to ensure impacts would be less than significant.

4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.21.1 Mandatory Findings of Significance (XXI) Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project was evaluated for potential significant adverse impacts to the natural environment. The Project Site supports certain special-status animal species and natural communities. DPR has determined that the Proposed Project would have the potential to degrade the quality of the habitat and/or reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered animals including Hutchinson's larkspur, Smith's Blue Butterfly, Foothill Yellow-legged Frog, California Red-Legged Frog, Coast Range newt, Northern California Legless Lizard, Blainville's Horned Lizard, sensitive bee species, nesting birds and sensitive bat species. The Project also would have the potential to degrade water quality by causing erosion, sedimentation, and release of pollutants, such as vehicle fluids and elevated metal concentrations into the environment. In addition, the site is rich with examples of California history and prehistory and the Project has been designed to avoid these resources. However, full integration of all Project requirements (listed in sections above as well as in Section 5) into this Project would reduce those impacts, both individually and cumulatively, to a less than significant level.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project has been designed to minimize or avoid impacts to known resources and will not further contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts. The Project will create a new pedestrian trail and decommission the existing trail within the area back to its natural condition. Therefore, the Proposed Project actions will not have impact that are considered cumulatively considerable when combined with other projects within the area in relation to existing conditions.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less Than Significant Impact.

Most Project-related environmental effects have been determined to pose a less than significant impact on humans. However, possible impacts from fugitive dust (Air Quality), erosion (Geology and Soils), construction accidents, spills, and wildfire (Hazards and Hazardous Waste), and construction-generated noise (Noise), though temporary in nature, have the potential to result in significant adverse effects on humans. These potential impacts would remain at less than significant levels if all Project requirements are fully integrated into this Project.

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5.0 SUMMARY OF PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND MITIGATION

DPR will implement the following Project requirements to reduce impacts from the Project.

5.1 General

SPR GEN-1: Pre-construction. Prior to the start of on-site construction work, trail construction crews will consult with the Project manager to identify all resources that must be protected.

SPR GEN-2: Heavy Equipment. No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be allowed in identified environmentally sensitive areas at any time; foot traffic will only be allowed with specific permission after clearance from the Project manager.

At the discretion of the Project manager, mechanized vehicles on biological resource sites will be restricted to a short- term use of rubber tire tractors only. All such vehicles must enter and exit the area via the same route of travel (by backing up). Vehicles are strictly prohibited from turning on the surface of site(s).

5.2 Aesthetics

SPR AES-1: Trail Construction. Materials used in trail construction will be native rock materials, with emphasis on aggregate material that blends with soils native to the respective turnpike locations.

5.3 Agricultural Resources

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.4 Air Quality

SPR AIR-1: Fugitive Dust and Ozone.

- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The MBARD's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.
- All trucks hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.
- All construction-related equipment and engines will be maintained in proper tune (according to manufacturer's specifications), and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California

airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of CCR). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.

- Earth or other material that has been transported onto paved roadways by trucks, construction equipment, erosion, or other Project-related activity will be promptly removed.

SPR AIR-2: Fugitive Dust and Ozone. During dry, dusty conditions, all active construction areas will be lightly sprayed with water to reduce dust without causing runoff.

SPR AIR-3: Fugitive Dust and Ozone.

- All trucks or light equipment hauling soil, sand, or other loose materials on public roads will be covered or required to maintain at least two feet of freeboard.
- All gasoline-powered equipment will be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications, and in compliance with all State and federal requirements.
- Paved streets adjacent to the park shall either be swept or washed at the end of each day, or as required, to remove excessive accumulations of silt and/or mud that could have resulted from Project-related activities.
- Excavation and grading activities will be suspended when sustained winds exceed 25 mph, instantaneous gusts exceed 35 mph, or when dust occurs from remediation related activities where visible emissions (dust) cannot be controlled by watering or conventional dust abatement controls.

5.5 Biological Resources

SPR BIO-1: General Measures. A qualified biologist shall conduct a mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program for all trail construction crews, work crews, and any onsite personnel to aid workers in recognizing special-status species and sensitive biological resources that may occur onsite. The program shall include identification of the special-status species and their habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and SPRs and PSRs required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area**.**

MM BIO-1: Special-Status Plant Species. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- The applicant shall perform pre-construction special-status plant surveys for portions of the BSA that were not previously surveyed (due to inaccessibility and safety) according to CDFW, CNPS, and USFWS protocols (CDFW 2018; CNPS 2001; USFWS 2000). Surveys shall be conducted throughout the unsurveyed portions of the Project footprint, to address potential direct and indirect impacts of the Project. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. To the extent feasible, surveys will be timed according to the identifiable period for special status species and

known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm target species are evident and identifiable at the time of the survey.

- If no special-status plants are found, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.
- If special-status plants are identified within the survey areas, mitigation measures in MM BIO-2 shall be implemented and they would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MM BIO-2: Hutchinson's Larkspur and other Special-Status Species. To avoid or minimize impacts to Hutchinson's larkspur and other special-status species, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- The Project impact limits shall be clearly demarcated prior to construction and all workers shall be made aware of the impact limits and avoided areas. No work shall occur outside of the Project impact limits. All vehicles and equipment shall be restricted to the Project impact limits and/or existing designated access roads and staging areas.
- Establish and clearly demarcate avoidance zones for Hutchinson's larkspur prior to construction and designate as environmentally sensitive areas. Avoidance zones shall include the extent of special-status plants plus a 10-foot buffer and shall be maintained until the completion of construction. A qualified biologist or biological monitor shall be present if work must occur within the avoidance buffer to ensure special-status plants are not impacted by the work.
- The Rocky Ridge Trail re-route or trail decommission activities may be adjusted to maximize avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur occurring in the BSA. If avoidance of Hutchinson's larkspur is not feasible, DPR will consult with CDFW to develop appropriate measures to reduce impacts to the population to the extent feasible. These measures may include restoration or permanent preservation of habitat for special-status plant species or translocation (via seed collection and/or transplantation) from planned impact areas to planned decommissioned trails (or other restoration areas) within Garrapata SP that would be monitored for survival.
- Clothing, vehicles, and equipment (including shoes and the undercarriage and tires/tracks) should be cleaned prior to entering the Project Site, and materials used for the Project (such as fill dirt or erosion control materials) should be from certified sources to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive plant species.

MM BIO-3: Special Status Bumble Bees. To avoid or minimize impacts to special status bumble bees, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee is no longer Candidate or formally Listed species under the California ESA at the time ground-disturbing activities occur, then no additional protection measures for non-listed species are proposed.

- If the Crotch's or western bumble bee are legally protected under the California ESA as a Candidate or Listed species at the time ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to begin, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in accordance with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California ESA Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023a) the season immediately prior to Project implementation. A minimum of three special-status bumble bee preconstruction surveys shall be conducted at 2- to 4-week intervals during the colony active period (April through August) when special-status bumble bees are most likely to be detected. Non-lethal surveys shall be completed by a biologist who either holds a Memorandum of Understanding to capture and handle Crotch's and/or western bumble bee (if netting and chilling protocol is to be utilized), or by a CDFW-approved biologist who is experienced in identifying native bumble bee species (if surveys are restricted to visual surveys that will provide high-resolution photo documentation for species verification). The surveyor shall walk through all areas of suitable habitat focusing on areas with floral resources. Surveys shall be completed at a minimum of one person-hour of searching per 3 acres of suitable habitat during suitable weather conditions (sustained winds less than 8 miles per hour, mostly sunny to full sun, temperatures between 65° and 90°F) at an appropriate time of day for detection (at least 1 hour after sunrise and at least 2 hours before sunset, though ideally between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.).
- If Crotch's or western bumble bees are detected, CDFW shall be notified by the designated biologist as further coordination may be required to avoid or mitigate certain impacts. At a minimum, two nesting surveys shall be conducted with focus on detecting active nesting colonies within 1 week and the final survey within 24-hours prior to ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the flight season (February through October). If an active Crotch's or western bumble bee nest is detected, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer zone (including foraging resources and flight corridors essential for supporting the colony) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take and the designated biologist shall coordinate with CDFW to determine if an Incidental Take Permit under Section 2081 of the California ESA will be required. Nest avoidance buffers may be removed at the completion of the flight season and/or once the qualified biologist deems the nesting colony is no longer active. If no nests are found but the species is present, a full-time qualified biological monitor shall be present during vegetation or ground-disturbing activities that are scheduled to occur during the queen flight period (February through March), colony active period (March through September), and/or gyne flight period (September through October). Because bumble bees move nest sites each year, two preconstruction nesting surveys shall be required during each subsequent year of construction, regardless of the previous year's findings, whenever vegetation and ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur during the flight season if nesting and foraging habitat is still present or has re-established.

MM BIO-4: Smith's Blue Butterfly. To avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly, the following measures shall be incorporated:

- Project implementation shall avoid or reduce construction activities in the coastal scrub and wild oats and annual brome grasslands where sea cliff buckwheat plants occur during the butterfly's flight season, mid-June to early September, so as to minimize disruptions to butterfly behavior.
- Project design shall avoid impact to or removal of sea-cliff buckwheat, by minimizing impacts to the minimum necessary for Project implementation and making small adjustments to the trail alignment during construction, where feasible. If sea cliff buckwheat plants are cut or removed for trail construction/decommission, the cut material shall be placed on/near other live buckwheat plants to allow butterfly larvae, if present, to relocate to live plants. DPR will have an appropriate person survey the work area to identify sea cliff buckwheat.
- Implement BMPs for all Project activities.
- Consult with USFWS to ensure take coverage is acquired and determine if additional appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly are required. Minimization measures would occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. Section 7 or 10 of the federal ESA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate required minimization measures to compensate for impacts to Smith's blue butterfly impacts. Additional measures to avoid or minimize impacts to Smith's blue butterfly may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

MM BIO–5: Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for FYLF in the BSA and a one-mile buffer around the Study Area.
- Where habitat for FYLF is identified, a qualified biologist shall conduct assessment-level surveys to determine whether FYLF occupy habitats within or surrounding the site.
- If surveys identify FYLF or FYLF habitat, consult with USFWS to determine appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and/or compensate for impacts to FYLF. Mitigation would have to occur within the framework of a biological opinion or SHA. If required, USFWS-approved mitigation developed through the regulatory permitting process would establish the appropriate and required mitigation for FYLF impacts. Measures may include preconstruction surveys, workers awareness training, and biological monitoring during construction.

MM BIO-6: California Red-Legged Frog. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Conduct visual surveys for CRLF in Project areas adjacent to Soberanes Creek no more than 48 hours prior to disturbance for new trail construction. If CRLF are observed in the work site, a USFWS-approved biologist shall capture and relocate the frogs to other suitable habitat up- or downstream of the work area. The USFWS-approved biologist shall monitor the initial ground disturbing activities and vegetation removal in work areas adjacent to Soberanes Creek.
- Potential indirect impacts to CRLF shall be avoided or minimized through Project design, where feasible, and implementation of construction BMPs designed to protect aquatic habitats (e.g., erosion control measures).

MM BIO-7: Coast Range Newt. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- A qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for Coast Range newt in the BSA.
- Where habitat for Coast Range newt is identified, a qualified biologist shall be retained to conduct preconstruction surveys immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including equipment staging, vegetation removal, and construction). If Coast Range newts are found during a survey, newts shall be moved from the work area to the nearest CDFW-approved relocation site.
- Where habitat for Coast Range newt habitat is identified, no monofilament plastic mesh or line shall be used for erosion control to reduce the risk of entrapment during construction. The monitor shall inspect erosion control materials daily for Coast Range newt.

MM BIO-8: Northern California Legless Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction:

- Immediately prior to any ground disturbing activity within suitable habitat for the species, the biologist shall be given enough time to manually rake the soil in suitable habitat to locate any lizards. The biologist shall also check under any natural or artificial cover objects within suitable habitat.
- DPR shall retain a qualified biologist to monitor the initial ground stripping and grading of the development area for legless lizards. If any legless lizards are observed during the work, the biologist shall capture the lizards by hand or net, place the individuals in a bucket with sand, and relocate the individuals to an adjacent area (within 100 feet) of suitable habitat outside the construction zone.

MM BIO-9: Blainville's Horned Lizard. The following shall be conducted prior to initiation of Project construction. A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Blainville's horned lizard within all suitable habitat in the Project work area 72 hours prior to the start of

ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. Any individuals discovered in the Project work area immediately prior to or during Project activities shall be allowed to move out of the work area of their own volition. If this is not feasible, they shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet from the Project work area where they were found.

MM BIO-10: Nesting Birds. If construction begins during February 1 to September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction nesting bird survey in the BSA and a 100-foot buffer around the Project within 14 days prior to the start of ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities. If any active nests are observed, these nests shall be designated a sensitive area and protected by an avoidance buffer established in coordination with CDFW until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or the nest is otherwise no longer occupied.

MM BIO-11: Jurisdictional Water and Wetlands Best Management Practices. The following BMPs shall be implemented:

- The Project shall avoid aquatic resources to the extent feasible. Aquatic resources located within 50 feet of the Project footprint will be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas shall be clearly demarcated with orange construction fencing or other visible barrier, and no Project-related activities shall be permitted within the delineated area.
- To minimize potential indirect effects, the applicant shall prepare and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to avoid and minimize erosion and runoff to wetlands and other waters that are to remain within or adjacent to the Project Site.
- Authorization under the Section 404 of the federal CWA must be obtained from the USACE prior to discharging any dredged or fill materials into any Waters of the U.S. Mitigation measures will be developed as part of the Section 404 Permit process to ensure no net loss of wetland function and values. Mitigation for permanent impacts to Waters of the U.S. is typically required at a minimum 1:1 ratio; however, final mitigation requirements will be developed in consultation with the USACE.
- If discharges will occur to Waters of the U.S., Section 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the RWQCB before a 404 Permit can be issued. An application for a 401 Water Quality Certification will be prepared and submitted to the RWQCB in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (Procedures; April 2021).
- If discharges to Waters of the State will occur without impacts to Waters of the U.S., the applicant shall obtain waste discharge requirements or a waiver of waste discharge requirements from the RWQCB as required pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

- If alteration of the bed, channel, or bank of an intermittent or ephemeral drainage is proposed, or if the Project will impact associated aquatic or riparian vegetation, the applicant shall notify CDFW of the Proposed Project activities and obtain a SAA prior to Project implementation.
- A CDP would be required for any activity impacting CCC wetlands. Various alternatives exist for mitigating the adverse effects of development projects on CCC wetlands including in-kind compensatory wetland mitigation (i.e., creation, restoration, or enhancement of wetland habitat) and out-of-kind mitigation where impacts to one habitat type are mitigated through the creation, restoration, or enhancement of another habitat type. Mitigation for impacts to CCC wetlands will be vetted through the CDP process.

5.6 Cultural Resources

SPR CUL-1: Undocumented Cultural Resources. If anyone discovers previously undocumented cultural resources during Project construction, work within 100 feet of the find will be temporarily halted until a DPR Qualified cultural resources specialist designs and implements appropriate treatments in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards and Guidelines for archaeological resources protection.

- DPR will modify the Project to ensure that construction activities will avoid cultural resources upon review and approval of a DPR Archaeologist.
- If ground disturbing activities uncover intact cultural features (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic ash) or human remains, when a DPR Qualified cultural resources specialist is not on-site Project manager/site supervisor will contact the DPR State Representative immediately and Project manager/site supervisor will temporarily halt or divert work within the immediate vicinity of the find until a DPR-qualified cultural resource specialist evaluates the find and determines the appropriate treatment and disposition.
- The archaeologist shall notify the Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American MLD for the Project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. Work cannot resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

PSR CUL-2: Cultural Monitoring Plan. A comprehensive Cultural Monitoring Plan will be implemented for the Project and will include both construction and long-term post-construction

monitoring. Monitoring will be conducted by a DPR Archaeologist and a Native American representative affiliated with the area.

Construction Monitoring will be implemented at the discretion of the California State Park archaeologist and will focus on those locations where trail construction is adjacent to archaeological sites (CA-MNT-2449). The DPR Archaeologist with assistance from a Tribal Representative, will monitor other construction activities as deemed necessary.

PSR CUL-3: Cultural Awareness Training. All workers, regardless of location, shall receive worker awareness cultural resources sensitivity training prior to construction. The training program should be developed by an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology and include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources and TCRs, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating state laws and regulations. It should also describe appropriate avoidance and impact minimization measures for cultural resources and TCRs that may be located at the Project locations and provide guidance on procedures to follow if any cultural resources or tribal resources are encountered..

5.7 Energy

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.8 Geology and Soils

SPR GEO-1: Erosion Control BMPs. BMPs shall be implemented in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, or trenching.

BMPs must always be in place including, but not limited to, covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and disturbed areas.

SPR GEO-2: Debris Slide/Flow. No track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles will be driven through wet areas during the rainy season or when soils are saturated to avoid compaction and/or damage to soil structure.

SPR GEO-3: Rehabilitation Plan. DPR will follow the trails handbook for the decommissioned trail that includes using brush removed from the new trail alignment for bio-mechanical erosion control (bundling slash and keying it in to fall of trail, filling damaged trails sections with soil and duff removed from the new trail alignment, constructing water bars, and replanting native trees and shrubs. .

SPR PALEO-1: Undiscovered Paleontological Resources. If any paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) are found during Project construction, construction shall be halted immediately in the subject area and the area shall be isolated using orange or yellow fencing until DPR is notified and the area is cleared for future work. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained

to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate treatment of the inadvertently discovered paleontological resources. If DPR resumes work in a location where paleontological remains have been discovered and cleared, the DPR will have a paleontologist onsite to confirm that no additional paleontological resources are in the area.

5.9 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.10 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

SPR HAZ-1: Spill Prevention and Response. Prior to the start of onsite construction activities, the construction manager will inspect all equipment for leaks and regularly inspect thereafter until equipment is removed from the Project Site. All contaminated water, sludge, spill residue, or other hazardous compounds will be contained and disposed of outside the boundaries of the site, at a lawfully permitted or authorized destination.

SPR HAZ-2: Wildfire Avoidance and Response. Prior to the start of construction, the construction manager will develop a Fire Safety Plan for DPR approval. The plan will include the emergency calling procedures for both CAL FIRE and local fire department(s).).

SPR HAZ-3: Wildfire Avoidance and Response. DPR personnel will have a State Park radio at the Project Site, which allows direct contact with CAL FIRE and a centralized dispatch center, to facilitate the rapid dispatch of control crews and equipment in case of a fire.

SPR HAZ 4: Wildfire Avoidance and Response. Under dry conditions, an available water resource or fire suppressant shall be onsite during activities with the potential to start a fire.

SPR HAZ-5: Wildfire Avoidance and Response. All heavy equipment will be required to include spark arrestors or turbo chargers (which eliminate sparks in exhaust) and have fire extinguishers on-site.

Construction crews shall park vehicles in an area without flammable materials, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews shall park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.

5.11 Hydrology and Water Quality

SPR HYD-1: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention. Prior to the start of construction involving ground-disturbing activities, DPR will prepare and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for DPR approval that identifies temporary BMPs (e.g., tarping of any stockpiled materials or soil; use of wildlife-friendly silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, etc.) and permanent (e.g., structural containment, preserving or planting of vegetation) for use in all construction areas to reduce or eliminate the discharge of soil, surface water runoff, and pollutants during all excavation, grading, trenching, repaving, or other ground-

disturbing activities. The SWPPP will include BMPs for hazardous waste and contaminated soils management and an SPCP, as appropriate.

SPR HYD-2: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention. The Project will comply with all applicable water quality standards as specified in the CCRWQCB Basin Plan.

SPR HYD-3: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention. All construction activities will be suspended during heavy precipitation events (i.e., at least 1/2-inch of precipitation in a 24-hour period) or when heavy precipitation events are forecast.

SPR HYD-4: Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention. If construction activities extend into the rainy season or if an un-seasonal storm is anticipated, the trail construction crews will properly winterize the site by covering (tarping) any stockpiled materials or soils and by constructing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. All erosion control measures must be wildlife friendly and will not pose a threat for species to become entangled in netting.

5.12 Land Use and Planning

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.13 Mineral Resources

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.14 Noise

SPR NOI-1: Noise Exposure. Internal combustion engines used for Project implementation will be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer. Equipment and trucks used for Project-related activities will utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., engine enclosures, acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds, intake silencers, ducts) whenever necessary.

SPR NOI-2: Noise Exposure. The trail construction crews will locate stationary noise sources and staging areas as far from potential sensitive noise receptors, as possible. If they must be located near potential sensitive noise receptors, stationary noise sources will be muffled or shielded, and/or enclosed within temporary sheds.

SPR NOI-3: Noise Exposure. Construction activities will generally be limited to the daylight hours, Monday – Friday. If work during weekends or holidays is required, no work will occur on those days before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. (check contract documents for time restrictions).

5.15 Population and Housing

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.16 Public Services

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.17 Recreation

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.18 Transportation/Traffic

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

5.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

PSR TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources. Any interested Native American groups should be informed no less than a month before construction about Proposed Project Activities that are planned within or near site CA-MNT-2449.

PSR TCR-2: Avoidance of TCRs. In coordination with Project Requirement PSR CUL-1, at least three weeks in advance of Project construction, the Construction Manager will notify DPR Archaeologist and any interested Native American groups of the beginning construction date. The interested parties will be given an opportunity to monitor trail construction during earth moving work.

Prior to construction, a meeting will be held between the construction manager, Project supervisors, construction crews, representatives of any other interested Native American Groups, and a DPR Archaeologist to discuss the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and fence installation along certain portions of the trail alignment.

A DPR Archaeologist, or a qualified professional archaeologist, will work with the construction manager to install temporary fencing and/or flagging around the Environmentally Sensitive Areas at least 7 calendar days prior to initiating any work in the area. The construction manager will contact the DPR archaeologist no less than 14 calendar days prior to the installation date of Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing. No less than one week prior to the installation date, the archaeologist will contact interested Native American groups and offer the opportunity for a tribal member to participate in the Environmentally Sensitive Area fence installation.

Any potential TCRs or any discoveries including human remains that are observed in any location will be subject to the decision process in PSR CUL-2 and subsequent consultation between the monitoring tribe(s) and DPR to evaluate and, if necessary, treat the discovery to the satisfaction of DPR.

5.20 Utilities and Service Systems

No Project requirements or mitigation measures are necessary.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

6.1 Department of Parks and Recreation (Lead Agency)

Brad Michalk, Statewide CEQA Coordinator, Northern Service Center

Jim Doran, Park Maintenance Chief I, Monterey District Facilities Management

John Hiles, Monterey Sector Manager

6.2 ECORP Consulting, Inc.

CEQA Documentation/Air Quality/Biological Resources/Cultural Resources/Greenhouse Gas/Noise

Chris Stabenfeldt, AICP, Program Manager

Amberly Morgan, Senior Environmental Planner

Brianna Gustafson, Associate Environmental Planner

Tom Scofield, Senior Biologist

Stephanie Castle, Senior Biologist

Christa Westphal, Staff Archaeologist/Field Director

Seth Meyer, Air Quality and Noise Specialists

Anaya Ward, Air Quality and Noise Specialists

Laura Hesse, Technical Editor

6.3 Sequoia

Tanya Baxter, Senior Botanist

Julie Woodruff, M.S. Senior Biologist/Project Manager

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APPENDIX D

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APPENDIX F

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