

Special-Status Species Evaluated but not Affected by the SCH Project

| Table H-1 Special-Status Species Evaluated but not Affected by the SCH Project | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status (Fed/State/ CNPS) | Habit, Habitat, and Reason for Exclusion |
| Plants | | | |
| Abrams' spurge | <i>Chamaesyce abramsiana</i> | -/I2 | Prostrate annual herb in sandy sites in desert scrub. Sandy areas and scrub are not present in the Project area. Last reports were from Old Beach and Brawley in 1912 (California Natural Diversity Database 2010). Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and likely extirpation from the Project area. |
| Brown turbans | <i>Malperia tenuis</i> | -/I2 | Grows in sandy places in creosote bush scrub. Sandy areas and scrub are not present in the Project area. Last record from the Project area was at Fish Mountain in 1926. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and likely extirpation from the Project area. |
| Chaparral sand-verbena | <i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i> | -/I1B | Annual herb known from sandy areas, such as dune areas southwest of the Salton Sea. Sandy areas are not present in the Project area. Has been indentified north, southeast, and southwest of the Sea. Last record in the Sea's vicinity is 1949. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Flat-seeded spurge | <i>Chamaesyce platysperma</i> | -/I1B | Prostrate annual herb known from sandy places and dunes in Sonoran desert scrub. Sandy areas and scrub are not present in the Project area. Known from near Superstition Mountain. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Glandular ditaxis | <i>Ditaxis claryana</i> | -/I2 | Perennial herb that grows in sandy places and rocky slopes in Sonoran desert scrub. Sandy or rocky areas are not present in the Project area. Last record in Project area is a 1906 collection in Indio. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat and likely extirpation from the Project area. |
| Harwood's milk-vetch | <i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>harwoodii</i> | -/I2 | Annual herb that occurs in desert dunes and stony washes. Sandy and rocky areas are not present in the Project area. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Las Animas colubrina | <i>Colubrina californica</i> | -/I2 | Deciduous shrub that grows in desert scrub in narrow, steep, rocky ravines or washes. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Munz's cholla | <i>Opuntia munzii</i> | -/I1B | Grows in sandy or rocky desert flats and hills. Sandy or rocky areas are not present in the Project area. Known from the Chocolate Mountains. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Orcutt's woody-aster | <i>Xylorhiza orcuttii</i> | -/I1B | Occurs in arid canyons and washes. Although drainages are present, they are not typical desert wash but rather, are composed of agricultural fields next to marsh and mudflat. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Orocopia sage | <i>Salvia greatae</i> | -/I1B | Known from alluvial bajadas and fans adjacent to desert washes in rocky or gravelly soil. Although drainages are present, they are not typical desert wash, but rather are composed of agricultural fields next to marsh and mudflat. All locations in Project vicinity |

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| | | | are near Salt Creek (California Natural Diversity Database 2010). Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Sand evening-primrose | <i>Camissonia arenaria</i> | -/I2 | Annual or perennial herb that grows in sandy or rocky sites in Sonoran desert scrub. Sandy and rocky areas are not present in the Project area. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Sand food | <i>Pholisma sonorae</i> | -/I1B | Grows in desert dunes. Parasitic on Eriogonum, Tiquilia, Ambrosia, and Pluchea spp. Dune areas are not present in the Project area. Not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat. |
| Reptiles and Amphibians | | | |
| Colorado River toad | <i>Ancillus alvarius</i> | -/SSC/- | Although this species occurred historically within irrigation ditches in Imperial Valley, it has been extirpated from California (California Herps 2010). |
| Lowland leopard frog | <i>Lathobates yavapaiensis</i> | -/SSC/- | Although this species occurred historically within streams, ponds, and irrigation ditches in Imperial Valley, it has been extirpated from California (California Herps 2010). |
| Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard | <i>Uma inornata</i> | T/E/- | This species does not occur within the Project area; its range is in Coachella Valley, north of the Salton Sea (California Herps 2010). |
| Colorado desert fringe-toed lizard | <i>Uma notata</i> | -/SSC/- | Suitable habitat, which includes fine, loose, wind-blown sand dunes, is not present (California Herps 2010). |
| Flat-tailed horned lizard | <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i> | -/SSC/- | Suitable habitat, which includes sandy desert hardpan or gravel flats with fine windblown sand, is not present (California Herps 2010). |
| Desert tortoise | <i>Gopherus agassizii</i> | T/T/- | Range of this species is east of the Salton Sea and does not occur within the Project area. Suitable desert habitat is not present (California Herps 2010). |
| Sonoran mud turtle | <i>Kinosternon sonoriense</i> | -/SSC/- | Although this species historically occurred within agricultural canals in Imperial Valley, it has been extirpated from California (California Herps 2010). |
| Birds | | | |
| American white pelican | <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i> | -/SSC/- (breeding)* | Historically bred at the Salton Sea up until the 1950s but now uses the region for wintering and loafing (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Brant | <i>Branta bernicla</i> | -/SSC/- (wintering/ staging)* | Wintering and staging areas are located along the coast. The species requires eelgrass for foraging. Records of the species at Salton Sea are from migration when they stop at the Sea's northern end (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Fulvous whistling-duck | <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i> | -/SSC/- (breeding)* | Has been extirpated from California as a breeding bird; however, may still be recorded as a winter visitor at locations such as Finney Lake and Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (Patten et al. 2003). |

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| Northern harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are of wintering individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Swainson's hawk | <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> | -/T/- | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are during migration (Patten et al. 2002). |
| Golden eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | -/FPI/- | Although the Salton Sea is designated as a wintering area by DFG (2010), this species has been observed only 5 times in the past century and the species is considered a vagrant and unlikely as a wintering occurrence. |
| Black tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Although this species is regularly observed at the Salton Sea, it does not breed there. The Salton Sea is a migratory stopover for the species and no evidence exists that it has ever bred there (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Yellow-billed cuckoo | <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> | C/E/- | Has been recorded 6 times within the Salton Sink but not as a breeding bird (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Long-eared owl | <i>Asio otus</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are during migration or for wintering (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Short-eared owl | <i>Asio flammeus</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are during migration or as a winter visitor (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Elf owl | <i>Micrathene whitneyi</i> | -/E/- | A few pairs occur along the Colorado River, and otherwise, this species is extirpated from California as a breeding bird (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Vaux's swift | <i>Chaetura vauxi</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are during migration (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Gilded flicker | <i>Colaptes chrysoides</i> | -/E/- | Has been reported as a vagrant in areas south of the Salton Sea but has not been recorded at the Sea (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Vermilion flycatcher | <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Historically present as a breeding bird in Imperial Valley but currently only known from the region of the Highline Canal near Holtville approximately 30 miles southeast of the Salton Sea (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Southwestern willow flycatcher | <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> | E/E/- | Protocol surveys conducted for this species in 2010 were negative (Dudek 2010). Observations of willow flycatcher within riparian habitat along the New and Alamo rivers are of the little willow flycatcher. |
| Olive-sided flycatcher | <i>Contopus cooperi</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of migrating individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Bank swallow | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | -/T/- | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. |

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| | | | Records of the species at the Sea are of migrating individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Purple martin | <i>Progne subis</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of migrating individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Bendire's thrasher | <i>Toxostoma bendirei</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of rare migrating or wintering individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Gray vireo | <i>Vireo vicinor</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at Salton Sea are of wintering individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Least Bell's vireo | <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> | E/E/- | Surveys conducted for this species in 2010 were negative (Dudek 2010). Seven recent records of the species are all from fall migration or wintering individuals and were recorded at Ramer Lake, Brawley, Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Sheldon Reservoir, and Willow Hole from 1963 to 2002. |
| Arizona Bell's vireo | <i>Vireo bellii arizonae</i> | -/E/- | Breeds along the Colorado River and would not occur at the Salton Sea because the subspecies is confined to the lower Colorado River in Nevada and California (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Lucy's warbler | <i>Vermivora luciae</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of wintering individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Yellow warbler | <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of migrating individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Summer tanager | <i>Piranga rubra</i> | -/SSC/ (breeding)* | Salton Sea is not located within their current breeding range. Records of the species at the Sea are of migrating individuals (Patten et al. 2003). |
| Mammals | | | |
| California leaf-nosed bat | <i>Macrotus californicus</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (desert riparian, wash, scrub, succulent shrub, alkali scrub, and palm oasis) is present, suitable roosting areas are not. Requires mine tunnels or caves, occasionally buildings for roosting, and shelter from heat and aridity (DFG 2010). |
| Pallid bat | <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (dry open grasslands, shrublands, and woodlands) is present, suitable roosting areas are not. Requires caves, crevices, or mines that protect them from high temperatures (DFG 2010). |
| Pocketed free-tailed bat | <i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (desert scrub and riparian) is present, suitable roosting areas are not. Requires rock crevices in cliffs for roosting (DFG 2010). |
| Spotted bat | <i>Euderma maculatum</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (arid desert, grasslands) is present, suitable roosting areas are not present. Requires rock |

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| | | | crevices, caves, or buildings for roosting (DFG 2010). |
| Townsend's big-eared bat | <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (mesic habitats, brush, and trees) is present, suitable roosting areas are not. Requires caves, mines, and other human-made structures for roosting (DFG 2010). |
| Western mastiff bat | <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> | -/SSC/- | Although suitable foraging habitat (open semiarid and arid habitats) is present, suitable roosting areas are not. Requires crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels for roosting (DFG 2010). |
| Yuma hispid cotton rat | <i>Sigmodon hispidus eremicus</i> | -/SSC/- | Not expected to occur based on distribution. Occurs in the lower Colorado River Valley and Colorado River delta (DFG 2010). |
| Ringtail | <i>Bassariscus astulus</i> | -/FPI/- | Although Salton Sea is within their distribution, suitable hollow trees and rocky areas are not present within the Project area (DFG 2010). |
| Peninsular bighorn sheep | <i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni DPS</i> | E/T,FPI/- | Not expected to occur based on distribution. Occurs in areas east of the Salton Sea (DFG 2010). |
| <p>Notes:</p> <p>* "Season of concern" as addressed for SSC species by Shuford, W.D., and T. Gardali, eds. 2008. California bird species of special concern: A ranked assessment of species, subspecies, and distinct populations of birds of immediate conservation concern in California. Studies of Western Birds No. 1. Western Field Ornithologists, Camarillo, CA, and California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA..</p> <p>Federal Designations:</p> <p>C Candidate for listing E Endangered. In danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range T Threatened. Likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range</p> <p>State Designations:</p> <p>E Endangered T Threatened FP Fully protected SSC Species of Special Concern</p> <p>California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List:</p> <p>1B Plants considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere 2 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere</p> <p>Sources:</p> <p>California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). 2010. California wildlife habitat relationships system. Website (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx) accessed December 2 through 28, 2010.</p> <p>California Herps. 2010. A guide to the amphibians and reptiles of California. Available online at: http://www.californiaherps.com.</p> <p>California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 2010. Nine quad search for USGS quadrangles Kane Spring, Westmoreland West, Obsidian Butte, Niland, and Wister. Full condensed text report.</p> <p>Dudek. 2010. Focused least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher survey report for the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project, Imperial County, California. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Game and Department of Water Resources. Submitted to the USFWS, December 3.</p> <p>Patten, M.A., G. McCaskie, and P. Unitt. 2003. Birds of the Salton Sea. London: University of California Press, Ltd.</p> | | | |

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