

Pierpont Sand Disposal/Relocation Project

Draft Initial Study/MND EIR-2496

March, 2012



**CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA
Revised INITIAL STUDY**

I. BACKGROUND:

- A. Case No.:** EIR-2496
- B. Lead Agency Name/Address:** City of San Buenaventura
PO Box 99
Ventura, CA 93002
- Staff Planner/Telephone Number:** **Maura Macaluso**/(805) 667-3983
- Project Applicant Name/Address:** City of Ventura
PO Box 99
Ventura, CA 93003

C. Project Description:

This City is currently under a court order to remove sand from Pierpont Beach in Ventura, Ca. The beach sand has built-up on top of an abandoned right-of-way over the past 20 years. The right-of-way is adjacent to residential property lines and the sand has piled up against the walls and fences of at least 15 beachfront homes and in some cases causing glass panes that are used as wind barriers to break. The courts have made a determination that the sand is a safety hazard and a nuisance. The City is required by law through a Settlement Agreement to remove the hazard beginning no later than March 2012. The work is anticipated to start by March 1 and be completed within 3 months.

Due to the court order, and being a “non-discretionary” project, the City is not required to follow CEQA for the sand removal. Where the City assumes it needs to follow CEQA is the sand disposal/relocation sites. **This Initial Study applies only to the sand receiver sites requiring CEQA review**, however, there is discussion and optional mitigation offered for the sand removal area. Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sand is proposed to be removed and relocated. Most of the sand receiving sites already underwent CEQA review or have permits in place that allow for the deposition of sand. The following relocation sites require CEQA review:

- Ventura City and State of California Beach on either side of the Ventura Pier in two, 100 by 300 feet areas, 2.5-feet high for 5,500 cubic yards total.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors highlighted in **bold** 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	Geology/Soils	Noise
Agriculture Resources	Hazards/Hazardous Material	Population and Housing
Air Quality	Hydrology and Water Quality	Public Services and Recreation
Biological Resources	Land Use and Planning	Transportation/Traffic
Cultural Resources	Mineral Resources	Utilities and Service Systems

III. PROJECT SCOPE:

1. Location:

The project site(s) reviewed for sand disposal is as follows:

- Ventura City and State of California Beach on either side of the Ventura Pier in two, 100 by 300 feet areas, 2.5-feet high for 5,500 cubic yards total.

2. Land Use Characteristics and Adjacent Land Use:

The Ventura City and State of California Beach on either side of the Ventura Pier is an active recreational beach bordered by the Pacific Ocean and the 101 Freeway.

3. General Plan Land Use Designation:

The land use designation for the proposed project is Parks and Open Space.

4. Discretionary Permits and Approvals Required: Administrative Coastal Development Permit.

5. Approvals required by other public agencies: None.

IV. CONCLUSION AND ACTION:

On the basis of the information contained in this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, the Planning Commission finds that:

_____ The proposed project is EXEMPT from further CEQA review under Section _____ of the state CEQA Guidelines.

- The project, as proposed, WOULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared and forwarded to the Planning Commission for approval of a FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the attached mitigation measures and monitoring program have been added to the project. A PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared and forwarded to the Administrative Hearing Officer for approval of a FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION.
- The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an EXPANDED INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT will be prepared to address:
- The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT should be prepared.
- The proposed project is a SUBSEQUENT USE of a previously prepared EIR and any environmental impacts have been addressed in EIR-_____.
- On the basis of the information contained in the Initial Study, and on the record as a whole, a finding has been made that there is no evidence that there will be an adverse effect on fish or wildlife habitats or resources pursuant to Section 3 of EIRC Resolution No. 93-5.
- (Other)

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factor as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including offsite as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) Negative Declaration: "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion within this Initial Study identifies the following:
 - a) The earlier analysis used and where it is available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) The explanation of each issue should identify: a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines and relevant provisions of the California Environmental Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended. Section 15063(c) of the CEQA Guidelines defines an Initial Study as the proper preliminary method of analyzing the potential environmental consequences of a project. Among the purposes of an Initial Study are:

- 1) To provide the Lead Agency (the City of San Buenaventura) with the necessary information to decide whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or a Negative Declaration;
- 2) To enable the Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts, thus avoiding the need to prepare an EIR (if possible); and

- 3) Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION:

(References used to respond to the topic areas in Section II include those that are identified by capital letters in Section VII of this Initial Study. If emphasis is placed on a particular reference, the capital letter corresponding to that reference may be noted in parenthesis beneath each topic area heading.)

A. Aesthetics:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
2. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
3. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				X
4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X

Impact Discussion:

- 1.-3. Sand is being relocated to the Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The sand will be spread evenly so as not to negatively impact the existing recreational beach. The deposit of sand on an existing beach will not have an adverse effect on aesthetics. **No Impact.**
4. The project is relocation of sand to the Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The deposit of sand onto an existing beach will not be a source of light or glare. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related Aesthetics were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

B. Agricultural Resources:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. 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?				X
2. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
3. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?				X

Impact Discussion:

1-3. This project includes sand relocation to the Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The relocation sites are existing Ventura City and State beach and not farm land. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to Agricultural Resources were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

C. Air Quality:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
2. Violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			x	
3. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			x	
4. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			x	
5. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			x	

Impact Discussion:

1. The project site is located within the Ventura County Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of two air quality management agencies. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for the control of the project site's mobile emission sources, and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) has oversight on the regulation of stationary sources. Based on the updated 2003 *Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines* adopted by the VCAPCD, City staff used the "CALEEMOD.2011.1.1" software program to calculate both expected construction and operational related air emissions for the project.

For purposes of identifying established air quality impact thresholds, the VCAPCD and the City consider operational air quality impacts to be significant if more than 25 pounds per day of Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC) or Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) would result from a project. Significant construction-related air quality impacts would result if fugitive dust emissions are generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public.

Construction Related Impacts: Excavation activities associated with the project could result in temporary, potentially significant, air quality impacts due to the use of construction equipment and potential generation of fugitive dust. The sand will be moved/relocated either by equipment such as a D6 and excavator(s) or equivalent.

The implementation of standard building and grading permit conditions, however, assures that these impacts are mitigated to a less than significant level. Those conditions include:

- 1) In order to reduce impacts associated with NO_x emissions (a precursor to ozone) the following measures shall be implemented:
 - a) Equipment engines should be maintained in good condition and in proper tune, as per manufacturer's specifications.
 - b) During the smog season (May through October), the construction period should be lengthened so as to minimize the number of vehicles and equipment operating at the same time.
 - c) Construction activities should utilize new technologies to control ozone precursor emissions as they become available and feasible.
- 2) During clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operation, excessive fugitive dust emissions shall be controlled by regular watering, paving construction roads, or other dust preventive measures using the following procedures:
 - a) All material excavated or graded shall be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive amounts of dust. Watering shall occur at least twice daily with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work is done for the day.
 - b) All clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities shall cease during periods of high winds (i.e., greater than 20 mph averaged over one hour) so as to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
 - c) All material transported off site shall be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
 - d) Facemasks shall be used by all employees involved in grading or excavation operations during dry periods to reduce inhalation of dust, which may contain the fungus that causes San Joaquin Valley Fever.
 - e) The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized so as to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- 3) After clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations, and during construction activities, fugitive dust emissions shall be controlled using the following procedures:
 - a) All active portions of the construction site shall be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- 4) At all times, fugitive dust emissions shall be controlled using the following procedures:
 - a) On-site vehicle speed shall be limited to 5-mph.
 - b) All areas with vehicle traffic shall be watered periodically.

- c) Use of petroleum-based dust palliatives shall meet the road oil requirements of Ventura County APCD Rule 74.4, Cutback Asphalt.
- d) Streets adjacent to the project site shall be swept as needed to remove silt, which may have accumulated from construction activities so as to prevent excessive amounts of dust.

With standard construction controls there would be a less than significant impact with respect to construction emissions. **Less Than Significant Impact.**

2.-5. The project is sand deposit due to relocation. The recommended work will require the temporary use of construction equipment with incorporation of the standard emission controls stated above. **Less than significant impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, assuming incorporation of standard emission controls during construction, no significant impacts related to Air Quality were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

D. Biological Resources:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		x		
2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		x		
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				x

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
4. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		x		
5. Conflict with local, regional, or state conservation plans or other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?		x		

Impact Discussion:

3. The project sites for sand deposit are the Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. These sites are not located on federally protected wetlands

1.,2.,4.&5. This project includes sand deposit/relocation to the Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier.

This City is currently under a court order to remove sand from Pierpont Beach. The courts have made a determination that the sand is a safety hazard and a nuisance. The City is required by law through a Settlement Agreement to remove the hazard beginning no later than March 2012. The work is anticipated to start by March 1 and be completed within 3 months.

Due to the court order, and being a “non-discretionary” project, the City is not required to follow CEQA for the sand removal, however, there is optional mitigation offered for the sand removal area. Where the City does need to follow CEQA is at some of the sand disposal/relocation sites. Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sand is proposed to be relocated. Most of the sand is going to locations that do not require CEQA review. Only 5,500 cubic yards of the sand is subject to CEQA review under this initial study.

Without mitigation, the project does have a potential to have a substantial adverse effect on the natural habitat including native plants and the following native animals: Legless Lizard, Globose Dune Beetle and Shore Birds. Therefore, there are mitigation measures included as a part of the project.

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the project description, the project has a potential to disturb as-yet undiscovered species, beach organisms and natural vegetation such as the dune species listed above. The following mitigation measures would reduce the potential for adverse effects to a less than significant level for both the sand removal and deposit sites:

Mitigation Measures Required Prior to Project Implementation

Bio-1. Pre-construction Surveys and Construction Monitoring. A survey was conducted documenting sensitive plants and animals occurring within proposed project limits. Special status species and their habitat were found, therefore a qualified biological monitor will be present in suitable habitat areas, as needed, to aid crews in implementing avoidance measures. The biologist will then check site removal and off-haul sites on a weekly basis to ensure mitigation compliance. **This work will be performed by a qualified biologist.**

Bio-2. Resource Avoidance Marking. All species or areas to be avoided shall be clearly marked in the field for exclusion from sand spreading by biologists prior to grading and spreading. **This shall be performed a qualified biologist.**

Bio-3. Education Program. A contractor education program that includes an onsite briefing will be implemented to ensure that all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological sensitivities associated with the project and about how to best avoid impacts to these sensitivities. **This shall be performed by a qualified biologist hired by the City prior to sand removal/deposition.**

Bio-4. Equipment Maintenance and Fueling. Equipment maintenance shall be restricted to designated machinery storage/staging areas offsite and not within any aquatic feature including tidal zones or anywhere on the proposed project site where lubricants, fuels, and other hazardous materials can contaminate protected aquatic or terrestrial resources. Fueling of construction equipment and any other necessary vehicle maintenance shall occur only in designated areas at a distance greater than 100 feet from drainages and associated plant communities to preclude adverse impacts to water quality should fuel spillage occur. **This shall be performed by the Contractor under this Contract.**

Bio-5. Surveys for Nesting Birds/Raptors. A qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for active nests no more than 72 hours prior to any habitat disturbance. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If nesting activities are observed, any nest sites must be protected until nesting activity has ended or as otherwise determined by a qualified biologist to ensure compliance with MBTA and similar sections of the California Fish and Game Code. If nesting birds are found, a buffer area of no less than 300 feet from raptor or sensitive bird nests and 150 feet from all other species will be in effect. Only construction activities (if any) approved by monitors (biologists) will take place within the buffer zone until the nest is vacated. This would reduce potential impacts to a level of less than significant under CEQA. **This shall be performed by a qualified biologist hired by the City no more than 5 business days prior to habitat disturbance.**

Bio-6. Native Plant Removal. The City of Ventura will retain biologists and restoration specialists to relocate 50% of all native plants in Sand Removal Sites. Removal plants will be transplanted to nearby dunes within State Park jurisdiction. All transplantable individuals will be assigned a number, marked with flagging and mapped using GPS with at least 1-meter resolution. The plants will be assessed for health and condition (i.e.,

good, fair, poor, or dead) will be recorded. Prior to transplanting, a qualified biologist will ensure that the plants are free of nests and nesting birds (since transplanting occurs between 15 February and 15 August the normal nesting season for most birds). The biologist will also examine plants and surrounding areas for potential impacts to protected wildlife species. All plants with active nests or protected wildlife species will be avoided.

Plant translocation will occur within the sand removal project boundaries. The transplant location for any individual plant shall be the closest area that supports suitable conditions for the species. Relocation sites will attempt to match as closely as possible slope, soil, soil texture, and other micro-habitat conditions. Between 300 and 500 plants will be transplanted.

Although transplantation can occur at any time of the year, the optimal season for transplanting is in the warmer months, when temperatures rarely drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Periods of heavy rain should also be avoided. If transplanting must occur during colder months or during rainfall periods, additional methods may be required to ensure successful transplantation.

Native shrubs shall be excavated by hand. Excavation will occur in a manner that preserves as much of the transplant's root mass as possible. The following two-person method is recommended to ensure successful transplantation of hand-excavated shrub species:

- a. Excavate a 12 to 18-inch trench around the target plant at 12 to 18 inches from the plant to accommodate roots;
- b. Gently pry the plant out of the soil with a shovel;
- c. Move the plant to a shady spot to prevent transplant shock, if not immediately transplanted;
- d. Trim damaged roots with a disinfected knife (a 10% bleach solution is recommended);
- e. Excavate a receiving hold roughly as wide and twice as deep as the hole left by the removed plant;
- f. Replace the soil and firm it by applying pressure with the foot; and,
- g. Water.

Bio-7. Sensitive Species Removal and Relocation. The presence of sensitive beetles and silvery legless lizards is highly possible within the Sand Removal Sites. Biologists retained for plant relocation will be responsible for identifying and relocating sensitive species detected during the plant relocation. These species will be relocated nearby in suitable habitat within State Park jurisdiction. **This shall be performed by a qualified biologist hired by the City prior to sand removal/deposition.**

E. Cultural Resources:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				X
3. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
4. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

Impact Discussion:

1-4. This project includes sand relocation to Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The sand deposit sites are not located in an area of historical, archaeological or paleontological resources, nor would it disturb any human remains. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to Cultural Resources were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

F. Geology and Soils:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
a. Rupture of a known earthquake fault?				X
b. Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
c. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction or landslides?			X	
d. Seismic-related inundation from tsunami or seiche?			X	
2. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?			X	
3. 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?			X	
4. Be located on expansive soil creating substantial risk to life or property?			X	
5. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X

Impact Discussion:

1. This project includes sand relocation to Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier.

- a. The project sites are not located on a known earthquake fault. **No impact.**
- b. Future seismic events could produce groundshaking throughout the city as well as surface rupture in some areas where future development could be

accommodated. The project is sand relocation/deposit. Therefore, the potential for ground shaking and surface rupture damaging structures is not applicable. **No impact.**

- c. There is a potential for seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction in the project area however, this project is sand relocation/deposit not building development, therefore, potential impacts are considered less than significant. **Less than significant impact.**
- d. The project site is located within a Tsunami Risk Area. However, the proposal is for sand relocation/deposit on an existing recreational beach. Seismic-related inundation from tsunami or seiche is considered less than significant. **Less than significant impact.**

2.-4.This project includes sand relocation to Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The project will not result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The project site will not become unstable due to the project. **Less than significant impact.**

5. The project is sand relocation/deposit to Ventura City and State Beach. There are no septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems to be affected. **N/A**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to geology and soils were identified. No mitigation measures are required

G. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
2. 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?				X
3. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
4. 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?				x
5. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				x
6. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				x

Impact Discussion:

1.-4. The project includes sand relocation/deposit to Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The project does not include transport, use, disposal or release of hazardous materials. Additionally, the sites are not included on a list of hazardous material sites. **No impact.**

5. The project includes the deposit of sand to Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The project will not impair or interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan. **No impact.**

6. The project includes sand deposit on Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The project will not expose people or structures to a risk involving wildland fires. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

H. Hydrology and Water Quality:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
2. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level?				X
3. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sit or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				X
4. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sit or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
5. 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?				X
6. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
7. Place housing within a 100-year flood plain?				X
8. Place within the 100-year flood plain structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				X

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
9. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam, or involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X

Impact Discussion:

1.-9. The project includes the relocation/deposit of sand on Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The deposited sand is being relocated from Pierpont Beach. Depositing the sand will not affect existing or future hydrology or water quality. In order to reduce impacts associated with construction related equipment, any mechanical equipment will be checked for leaks of oil or other hazardous substances and any maintenance thereof will be done off the beach and away from any storm drain. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to hydrology and water quality were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

I. Land Use and Planning:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Physically divide an established community?				X
2. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the General Plan, a specific plan, local coastal program, Hillside Management Program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
3. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

Impact Discussion:

1. The project includes sand relocation/deposit to an existing beach and will not physically divide an established community. **No impact.**
2. The project includes the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing beach. This project will require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) prior to implementation and that CDP will be conditioned to be consistent with the Coastal Act and the City's approved LCP. **Less than significant impact.**
3. The project includes sand relocation/deposit to an existing beach and will not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impacts: Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to land use and planning were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

J. Mineral Resources:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Result in the loss of availability of known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
2. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on the General Plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X

Impact Discussion:

1.&2.The project includes the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing beach. The project will not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. **No Impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to mineral resources were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

K. Noise:

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Exposure of persons to a generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the General Plan or noise ordinance?			X	
2. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
3. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
4. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	

Impact Discussion:

1.-2.This project includes sand relocation/deposit on Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The noise from the sand relocation/deposit activities may be temporarily disruptive, however the City of Ventura’s Noise Ordinance (No.87-19) limits noise generating construction activity to between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. when people are generally less sensitive to noise. Due to the temporary nature of the noise, a less than significant impact with regards to exposure to excessive noise levels would occur. **Less than significant impact.**

3. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing beach. The project is temporary and would not create a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. **No impact**

4. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing beach. The proposed

project would not generate noise in the long term and would not create a permanent or periodic increase in ambient noise level. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s):** Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to noise were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

L. Population and Housing:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly?				X
2. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

Impact Discussion:

1.&2. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing beach. The project would not effect population or housing. **No impact.**

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to population and housing were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

M. Public Services & Recreation:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered				X

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
governmental facilities, the construction which would cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following:				
a. Fire protection?				x
b. Police protection?				x
c. Schools?			x	
d. Neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities?			x	
e. Maintenance of public facilities including roads?				x
2. 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?				x
3. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				x

Impact Discussion:

1.&3. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand to an existing sandy beach area. The sand will be spread evenly so as not to negatively impact the existing recreational beach. The project would not affect public services and recreation. **No impact.**

2. The project consists of sand relocation/deposit on Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The deposit of sand is not intended to affect the use of the public beach.

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts

related to public services and recreation were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

N. Transportation/Traffic:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestions management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
2. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio of roads, or congestion at intersections)?				X
3. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)?		X		
4. Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
5. Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
6. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X

Impact Discussion:

1.-6. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand to Ventura City and State of California Beach on either side of the Ventura Pier in two, 100 by 300 feet areas, 2.5-feet high for 5,500 cubic yards total and transportation of sand to several locations within Ventura County.

The greatest number of truck trips would be approximately 8-10 per hour. The trips are temporary and are not expected to exceed the current level of service even temporarily or increase traffic to the point of causing a negative impact.

Hauling activities will be scheduled after 8:30 a.m. on weekdays (to avoid traffic/congestion in the morning). There will be no hauling after 4:30 p.m. (to help minimize disruption to traffic in the afternoon rush hour).

The trucks accessing State Beach property for sand deposit may interfere with parking and will be intermittently crossing the bike path. This may significantly impact State Beach policies.

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the project description, the project has a potential to impact State Beach policies while accessing the property for sand deposit. The following mitigation measure would reduce the potential for adverse effects to a less than significant level for the deposit sites:

Mitigation Measures Required Prior to Project Implementation

T-8. The City shall comply with the State Parks permit required for access through the State Park’s parking lot to the sand deposit site.

O. Utilities and Service Systems:

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
1. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
2. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impacts
3. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
4. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
5. 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?				X
6. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
7. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

Impact Discussion:

1.-7. The project is the relocation/deposit of sand on Ventura City and State Beach along both sides of the Ventura Pier. The project will not affect utilities and service systems.

Mitigation/Residual Impact(s): Based on the discussion above, no significant impacts related to utilities and service systems were identified. No mitigation measures are required.

P. Mandatory Findings of Significance:

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

Findings Discussion:

1. With the mitigation measures related to Biological Resources proposed in this Initial Study, there will not be a significant effect on the quality of the environment or substantial reduction or disturbance of the habitat or wildlife.

2. The project is the deposit of sand on Ventura City and State Beach on either side of the Ventura Pier. The project does not have environmental effects that are cumulative or that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly.

3. With the mitigation measure related to Transportation/Traffic impacts proposed in this Initial Study, there will not be a significant effect that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly.

VI. CIRCULATE TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES/PERSONS:

VENTURA COUNTY

Agricultural Commissioner	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ventura County Clerk/Recorder* (hand deliver – 1 original, 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ventura County Watershed Protection District*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)	<input type="checkbox"/>
County of Ventura Resource Management Agency, Attn: Planning* Director (1 hard copy, 6 CDs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ventura County Transportation Commission* (VCTC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADJACENT COUNTIES

Kern County Planning & Development Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	County of Santa Barbara Planning Division	<input type="checkbox"/>
County of Los Angeles Dept. of Regional Planning Impact Analysis Section	<input type="checkbox"/>		

ADJACENT CITIES

City of Oxnard	<input type="checkbox"/>	City of Ojai	<input type="checkbox"/>
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OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Air Pollution Control District*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ventura County Organization of Government (VCOG)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ventura County Solid Waste Management Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ventura Regional Sanitation District*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casitas Mutual Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold Coast Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ventura Unified School District	<input type="checkbox"/>		

LIBRARIES

E.P. Foster Branch Library* [X]

Avenue Branch Library* [X]

STATE AGENCIES

California Coastal Commission
South Central Coast Area Office [X] Southern California Association of
Governments (SCAG)* (3 copies) [X]

California Dept. of Fish & Game
(Santa Barbara) [X] Caltrans District 7
Environmental Section [X]

California Regional Water Quality Control
Board [] State Department of Parks
and Recreation [X]

California Integrated Waste
Management Board, Permits Section [] Dept. of Boating & Waterways []

California Department of Toxic
Substances Control [] State Clearinghouse (15 copies) []

FEDERAL AGENCIES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [X] U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service [X]

CITIZEN GROUPS

Audubon Society [] Sierra Club [X]

Building Industry Association
Greater Los Angeles/Ventura
Region of Southern California, Inc. [] California Trout []

[] Surfrider Foundation [X]

Environmental Coalition [X] Friends of the Ventura River [X]

Environmental Defense Center [] League of Women Voters [X]

Friends of the Santa Clara River [] Santa Ynez Band of Mission Indians []

Ventureano Canaliano Chumash [] Owl Clan Consultants []

Candelaria American Indian Council [] Montalvo Property Owners Association []

Ventura County Archaeological Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foothill Road Homeowners Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Westside Community Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	East Ventura Community Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Downtown Community Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Midtown Community Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pierpont Community Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

*Indicates agency/person always receives notice.

VII. LIST OF REFERENCES:

These references, and those previously cited within the text of this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, are intended to provide a list of Supporting Information Sources and/or evidence staff has relied upon in completing this document and in reaching the conclusions contained herein. In addition, the materials that were submitted by the applicant have also been used in completing this document.

If any person or entity reviewing this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment has a question regarding the supporting information source and/or evidence, they may contact the staff planner at the address and telephone number noted on the front page of this document during the public review period.

- A. General Plan, including all technical appendices, maps, and the Final Environmental Impact Report prepared and certified therefore - City of San Buenaventura, 2005.
- B. Zoning Ordinance, including all maps and the Negative Declaration (EIR-2010) prepared and adopted therefore - City of San Buenaventura, 1992.
- C. Annual Transportation Report, Technical Appendix – City of San Buenaventura, April 2002
- D. Countywide Solid Waste Management Plan - Ventura County Solid Waste Management District, 1985.
- E. Air Quality Mitigation Program - City of San Buenaventura, 1993.
- F. Noise Ordinance - City of San Buenaventura.
- G. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) MAPS, 1987.
- H. Uniform Building Code, 1998.
- I. Pierpont Beach Sand Management Plan, November 19, 2007

- J. Survey report and recommended mitigation by Plegadis Consultants, February 2012.
-

VIII. PERSONS AND/OR AGENCIES CONSULTED DURING PREPARATION OF THIS INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

<u>Person</u>	<u>City Agency</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Ricardo Montijo	Plegadis Consultants	recommended mitigation
Tom Mericle	Traffic	
Joe McDermott	Public Works	

IX. ATTACHMENTS:

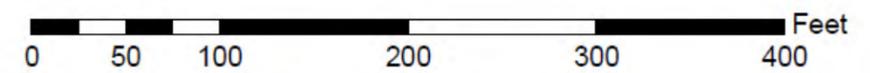
- A. Site Maps
- B. Natural Resources Survey Letter Report for Proposed Sand Removal and Off-haul Sites in Ventura, California by Plegadis Consultants – February 21, 2012

Figure 3b. Vegetation: Off-haul Sites C and D



Legend

-  Project Off-haul Sites
-  Beach Sand (Less than 1% Native Plant Cover)





P L E G A D I S

21 February 2012

City of San Buenaventura
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93002-0099

Attention: Maura Macaluso and Joe McDermott

RE: Natural Resources Survey Letter Report for Proposed Sand Removal and Off-haul Sites in Ventura, California (Revised).

Dear City Representatives:

Plegadis LLC is pleased to submit the following letter report that describes the biological resources on sand removal and off-haul sites located along the Ventura County Coast. The off-haul sites are required to accommodate nuisance sand that will be removed from Pierpont Beach (Sand Removal Sites). This sand has built up against property walls, fences, and at the ends of most of the Pierpont lanes causing issues with property owners as well as impacts to access from the lanes to the beach. Several thousand cubic yards will be distributed among the two of five sites considered for off-haul. The purpose of this report is to evaluate potential impacts to biological resources from sand removal and placement. Although the City is not required to follow the California Environmental Quality Act on the sand removal portion of the project because abating the sand nuisance is “non-discretionary” per a court order, the City still intends to mitigate potential off-haul and removal impacts.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Natural resources are protected by state and federal legislation intended to conserve and promote their recovery. Generally, these laws can be grouped into the following three categories:

- Laws intended to protect individual species and their habitat, such as state and federal endangered species acts.
- Laws intended to protect taxa (groups), such as the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Laws that protect habitats or natural communities critical to the maintenance of other vital resources, such as portions of the federal Clean Water Act and California Fish and Game (CFG) Code that protect wetlands and streambeds, respectively.

Endangered Species Acts

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (as amended) provides for the conservation of ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants depend, both through federal action and by encouraging the establishment of State programs. The FESA authorizes the USFWS with the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened. FESA prohibits unauthorized take, possession, sale, and transport of endangered species. Section 7 of the FESA requires federal agencies to ensure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat. Furthermore, it encourages agencies to consult with the USFWS prior to undertaking any such action.

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (CFG Code Sections 2050 et seq.) is administered by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). CESA requires the CDFG to maintain a list of threatened and endangered species. The CDFG also maintains a list of candidates for listing under CESA and of species of special concern (or watch list species). CESA prohibits the "taking" of listed species except as otherwise provided in State law. Section 86 of CFG Code defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill." Under certain circumstances, CESA applies these take prohibitions to species petitioned for listing (state candidates). Pursuant to the requirements of CESA, State lead agencies (as defined under CEQA Pub. Res. Code Section 21067) are required to consult with CDFG to ensure that any action or project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of essential habitat. Additionally, the CDFG encourages informal consultation on any proposed project that may impact a candidate species.

CEQA Guidelines (Section 15380[b]) also afford species not listed under FESA or CESA special consideration if a species can be shown to meet certain specified criteria. Intended primarily to deal with situations in which, for example, an action affects a species not yet afforded protection under state or federal law, this section of the Guidelines affords species protection until legal designation is warranted.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) maintains a list of plants believed or known to be rare. This list includes species which are not afforded protection under federal or state endangered species legislation. The major categories of plants under the CNPS scheme are:

- List 1A - Plants believed extinct.
- List 1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

- List 2 - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere.
- List 3 - A review list of plants for which the CNPS requires more information.
- List 4 - A watch list of plants of limited distribution.

CNPS List 1 or 2 plants are generally considered to meet CEQA Section 15380 criteria.

Protected Wildlife

The vegetation in and adjacent to certain sand removal and off-haul sites provides nesting habitat for bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S. Code 703-712), enacted in 1918, prohibits the pursuit, hunting, take, capture, possession or killing of all native birds, and the destruction of their eggs or nests, except where exempted by local game laws. Although depredation permits are issued under this Act for the purpose of controlling bird populations under certain conditions, permits are not normally issued for projects that harm protected species through construction or similar activities. Compliance with this act is normally achieved through project planning and impact avoidance.

Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15206, a project may be deemed to be of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance if it substantially affects sensitive wildlife habitat. The definition of sensitive wildlife habitats includes, but is not limited to, riparian lands, wetlands, bays, estuaries, marshes, and habitats for rare and endangered species as defined by CFG Code Section 903.

Protected Habitats

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is charged, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), with the responsibility for issuing permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE has developed a multiple parameter test for determining the presence and extent of wetlands in a given area. In essence, the test relies on the characterization of soils and vegetation, and the readily identifiable presence of water. When it is determined that an area meets these criteria, it is subject to the restrictions and prohibitions of the Clean Water Act as it applies to wetlands.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act imposes restrictions on and requires permits for any action that involves the placement of fill material, dredges material from, or results in flooding of wetlands or other waters of the United States. In accordance with USEPA regulations issued under Section 404(b)(1), the permitting of fill will not be approved unless the following conditions are met: no practicable, less environmentally damaging alternative to the action

exists; the activity does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards (as described under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act); the activity does not jeopardize federally listed threatened or endangered species or sensitive cultural resources (as required by 33 CFR Part 320.3e and g); the activity does not contribute to significant degradation of waters of the United States; and all practicable and appropriate steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem (40 CFR Part 230.10).

Hydrologic features may also be afforded protection as a streambed subject to the limitations of CFG Code Sections 1600-1616. Under this regulation, the CDFG is authorized to recommend mitigation for projects that obstruct the flow or that otherwise result in the alteration of the bed, channel, or bank of a stream or river possessing fish and wildlife resources. The law extends the CDFG's jurisdiction to permanent, ephemeral (non-permanent), and intermittent streams. Applicants whose projects are likely to affect these resources are required to enter into a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the CDFG.

METHODOLOGY

Plegadis LLC biologist Ricardo Montijo and GIS specialist Bryan Solis undertook a general biological resources survey of the sand removal and five potential (later reduced to two) off-haul sites on 26 January 2012. The intent of the surveys was to document biological diversity and the integrity of natural resources on these sites to evaluate potential impacts from the proposed project. Special attention was focused on determining the possibility that species designated as rare or that are afforded special legislative protection occur in designated project areas.

The surveys were conducted under clear and sunny skies, from approximately 0745 hours to 1600 hours with temperatures that averaged 65° Fahrenheit (F). Conditions were breezy in the afternoon, with wind speeds well under 5 knots. The sites were surveyed on foot using north-south parallel transects, where appropriate. Observations of flora and fauna were recorded in the field. Wildlife observations were made directly and aided by the use of binoculars or through sign including tracks, scat, and remains.

The taxonomic nomenclature uses herein follows Hickman et al. (1993) for plants and California Department of Fish and Game (2006) for wildlife

RESULTS

Site Description and Natural Setting

The sand removal and off-haul sites are located in coastal (western) Ventura County within and north of the City of Ventura, California (Figure 1). Table 1 provides coordinates for each of the five potential off-haul locations and the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle on which each site occurs.

Table 1. Geographic Location of Sand Removal and Off-haul Sites

Site Name	USGS 7.5-minute Quadrangle	Approximate Latitude	Approximate Longitude	Site Type/ Considered for Project?
Sharon	Ventura	34.26712	-119.278	Sand Removal/Yes
Woodstock	Ventura	34.26668	-119.278	Sand Removal/Yes
Waterbury	Ventura	34.26628	-119.277	Sand Removal/Yes
Brockton	Ventura	34.26582	-119.277	Sand Removal/Yes
Driftwood	Ventura	34.26541	-119.276	Sand Removal/Yes
Belfast	Ventura	34.26499	-119.276	Sand Removal/Yes
Bangor	Ventura	34.26457	-119.276	Sand Removal/Yes
Dover	Ventura	34.26405	-119.275	Sand Removal/Yes
Bath	Ventura	34.26365	-119.275	Sand Removal/Yes
Montauk	Ventura	34.2632	-119.275	Sand Removal/Yes
Seaward	Ventura	34.26281	-119.274	Sand Removal/Yes
Pittsfield	Ventura	34.26198	-119.274	Sand Removal/Yes
Winthrop	Ventura	34.26152	-119.274	Sand Removal/Yes
Shelburn	Ventura	34.26107	-119.273	Sand Removal/Yes
Cornwall	Ventura	34.26058	-119.273	Sand Removal/Yes
Kingston	Ventura	34.26005	-119.273	Sand Removal/Yes
Brunswick	Ventura	34.25902	-119.272	Sand Removal/Yes
Norwich	Ventura	34.25955	-119.272	Sand Removal/Yes
New Bedford	Ventura	34.25874	-119.272	Sand Removal/Yes
Martha's Vineyard	Ventura	34.25833	-119.272	Sand Removal/Yes
Sagamore	Ventura	34.25806	-119.272	Sand Removal/Yes
Devon	Ventura	34.25752	-119.271	Sand Removal/Yes
Weymouth	Ventura	34.25697	-119.271	Sand Removal/Yes
Hanover	Ventura	34.25646	-119.271	Sand Removal/Yes
Camden	Ventura	34.25592	-119.271	Sand Removal/Yes
Nathan	Ventura	34.25537	-119.27	Sand Removal/Yes
Greenock	Ventura	34.25476	-119.27	Sand Removal/Yes
Site A	Oxnard OE W	34.2425	-119.255	Off-haul/No
Site B	Ventura	34.27346	-119.305	Off-haul/No
Site C	Ventura	34.27527	-119.29	Off-haul/Yes
Site D	Ventura	34.27555	-119.291	Off-haul/Yes
Site E	Pitas Point	34.35612	-119.432	Off-haul/No

Figure 1. Project Location Vicinity Map



The sand removal and off-haul sites are located along the coastal portion of Ventura County. Site A, the River Haven Site was removed from the survey because it was already significantly disturbed, with no vegetation. Site B, Surfer's Point Site, is also already disturbed and is part of an on-going construction project that is covered under an existing Coastal Development Permit. Site E, at Oil Piers, was removed from the survey because it was determined to be infeasible to off-haul sand to this location. Since Off-haul Sites A, B, and E were eliminated from further consideration, they are not discussed further in this report.

Sand removal and off-haul sites are within the Ventura Coastal Plain. The plain was formed by the deposition of sediments from the Santa Clara River and from the streams of the Calleguas-Conejo drainage system. The Sand Removal Sites are located on Pierpont Beach at the ends of and between the lanes west of Pierpont Boulevard (Figure 2a). Off-haul Sites C and D are located on the beach on either side of the Ventura Pier (Figure 2b).

Natural Resources

Vegetation

Vegetation on the Sand Removal Sites varies from completely barren to stabilized dunes with native and non-native vegetation (Figure 3a). Among the native species that occur there are beach primrose (*Cammissonia cheiranthifolia*), silvery sand bur (*Ambrosia chamissonis*), and sand verbena (*Abronia maritima*). Some sites are comprised of or support substantial stands of invasive weedy species, such as Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), and sea rocket (*Cakile maritime*). Many sites support intentionally planted and escaped landscape plants such as Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*). Off-haul Sites C and D support virtually no vegetation (Figure 3b).

Wildlife

Birds comprised the largest number of wildlife species observed during the surveys. Common birds detected during the surveys included shorebirds like western sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*), least sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*), American avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*), and long-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). Gulls, such as western (*Larus occidentalis*), Heermann's (*Larus heermanni*), ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*), and California (*Larus californica*), were also common. A common murre (*Uria aalge*), a normally pelagic species was observed on the beach. Upon further inspection, we determined that the bird was partially covered in petroleum; the bird was rescued from west of the Sand Removal Sites at San Pedro Lane and sent to a bird rehabilitation facility. Two moribund unidentified grebes were observed on the beach approximately 150 feet south of the common murre.

Figure 2a. Sand Removal Locations



Legend

 Sand Removal Sites (Approximate Limits)



0 210 420 840 1,260 1,680 Feet

Figure 2b. Off-haul Sites C and D



Legend

 Project Off-haul Sites

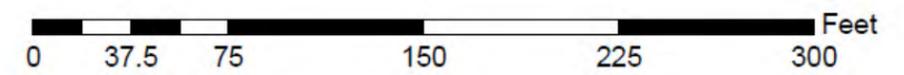
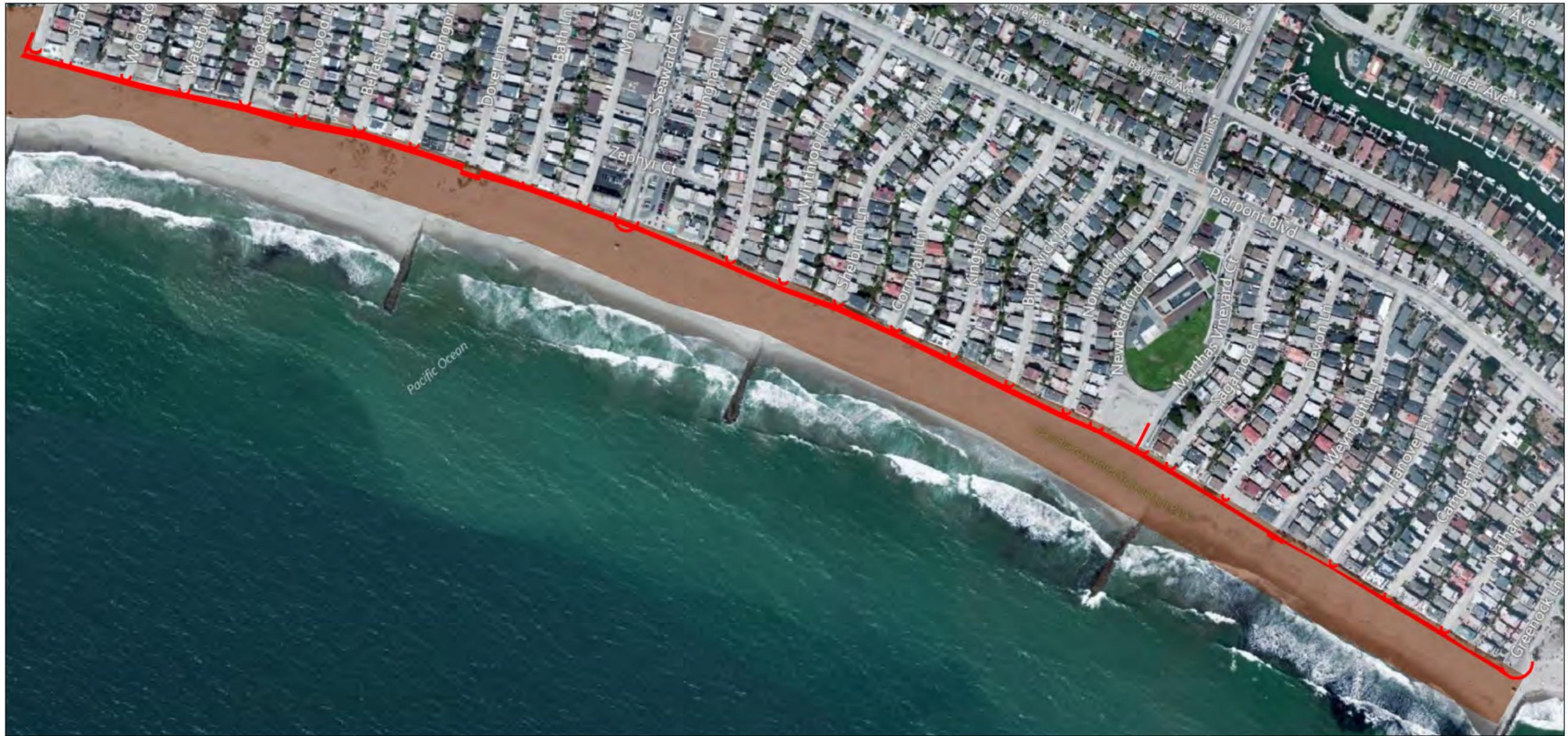


Figure 3a. Vegetation: Sand Removal Sites



Legend

-  Sand Removal Sites
-  Dunes (Partially Vegetated/Stabilized)

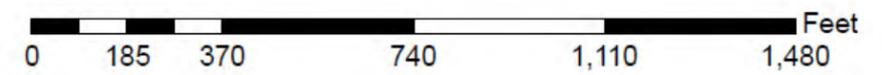
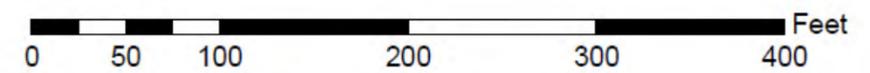


Figure 3b. Vegetation: Off-haul Sites C and D



Legend

-  Project Off-haul Sites
-  Beach Sand (Less than 1% Native Plant Cover)



Other birds detected during beach surveys included rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*). House finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), and northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) were detected along Pierpont Beach. Pierpont Beach also supported European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), American pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), and Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*).

Attachment B is a complete list of wildlife species detected during the field survey.

Sensitive Species

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) program maintains an inventory of the status and locations of rare plants and animals in California. The primary purpose of this program is to provide agencies, resource managers, and other interested parties location and other information on rare species. The CNDDDB is used here to determine rare, sensitive, and protected species potentially occurring on the sites (Table 2 and Figure 4). A discussion of species likely to occur on the Sand Removal and off-haul sites follows. Only species likely to occur are discussed further.

Sensitive Plants

Orcutt's Pincushion

Chaenactis gabriuscula var. *orcuttiana*

Orcutt's yellow pincushion, a rare variety of the more widespread yellow pincushion, limited to coastal Southern California and Baja California. It grows on coastal dunes and bluffs below 100 meters. The variety is listed by the California Native Plant Society as endemic to California dune ecosystems and significantly declining, with confirmed populations in parts of Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego Counties. Marginally suitable habitat for this species occurs on the Sand Removal Sites.

Table 2. CNDDDB Sensitive Species that Potentially Occur at the Off-haul Sites

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
PLANTS					
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i> Aphanisma	None	None	-	1B.2	Unlikely to Occur. This plant grows in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. It occurs on bluffs and slopes near the ocean in sandy or clay soils from sea level to about 305 meters. Off-haul Sites C and D are recently cleared or continuously disturbed and do not appear to provide suitable habitat for the species. Marginal habitat for this species also occurs on the Sand Removal Sites
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i> Ventura Marsh Milk-vetch	FE	SE	-	1B.1	Does not Occur. This plant occurs in coastal salt marsh, within reach of high tide or in areas protected by barrier beaches. It is occasionally found near seeps on sandy bluffs from sea level to 35 meters. No suitable habitat occurs on the sites.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> Southern Tarplant	None	None	-	1B.1	Does Not Occur. This plant occurs in marshes and swamps (margins), and valley and foothill grasslands. It is often in disturbed sites near the coast at marsh edges and also in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. No suitable habitat occurs on the Sand Removal and Off-haul sites.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's Pincushion	None	None	-	1B.1	May Occur. Orcutt's pincushion occurs in coastal bluff scrub and coastal dunes where it grows in sandy sites from 3 to 100 meters. Suitable conditions exist for the species at the Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i> ssp. <i>maritimus</i> Also <i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i> Salt Marsh Bird's-beak	FE	SE	-	1B.2	May Occur. This species occurs in coastal salt marsh and coastal dunes. It is limited to the higher zones of the salt marsh habitat from sea

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					level to 30 meters. Suitable conditions exist for the species at the Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula</i> Mesa Horkelia	None	None	-	1B.1	Does Not Occur. Mesa horkelia grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. It grows in sandy or gravelly sites from 70 to 810 meters. Although Off-haul Site E is on former coastal scrub there is no existing suitable habitat at any of the sites.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i> Coulter's Goldfields	None	None	-	1B.1	Does Not Occur. This plant occurs in coastal salt marshes, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools where it is normally found on alkaline soils from 1 to 1,400 meters. No suitable habitat exists on the sites.
<i>Malacothrix similis</i> Mexican Malacothrix	None	None	-	1A	Unlikely to Occur. Mexican malacothrix was once known to occur locally in coastal dunes on the mainland and Santa Cruz Island from 0 to 40 meters. It is presumed extinct.
<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i> Ojai Navarretia	None	None	-	1B.1	Does Not Occur. This species occupies chaparral, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland communities. It grows in shrubland openings or grasslands from 275 to 620 meters. No suitable habitat exists for this plant within the proposed Off-haul or Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Calochortus weedii var. vestus</i> Late-flowered Mariposa-lily	None	None	-	1B.2	Does Not Occur. This lily occurs in chaparral and, cismontane woodlands, specifically, dry, open coastal woodlands and chaparral on serpentine soils from 270 to 1,910 meters. No suitable habitat exists for this plant within the project sites.
INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES					

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
<i>Cicindela hirticollis gravida</i> Sandy Beach Tiger Beetle	None	None	-	-	May Occur. This cicindelid beetle inhabits areas adjacent to non-brackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco Bay to northern Mexico. It requires clean, dry, light-colored, while subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action. This species may occur in off-haul areas C or D and at the Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Coelus globosus</i> Globose Dune Beetle	None	None	-	-	Likely Occurs. This beetle is an inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitats, from Bodega Head in Sonoma County south to Ensenada, Mexico. It prefers foredunes and sand hummocks where it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation. This species likely occurs on the Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch Butterfly	None	None	-	-	Occurs. This species' winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts are typically located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. One individual was observed above Off-haul Site D; this is an incidental (flyover) sighting as there is no suitable habitat on that site for this species.
FISHES					
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i> Santa Ana Sucker	FT	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. The Santa Ana Sucker is endemic to the Los Angeles basin where it inhabits south coastal streams. Santa Ana Sucker is a habitat generalist, but prefers sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					algae. There are no stream habitats on the off-haul sites, and therefore no suitable fish habitat.
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> Tidewater Goby	FE	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. Tidewater gobies occur in brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County, to the mouth of the Smith River. This species is found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, where it occurs in fairly still, but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels. There are no stream habitats on the off-haul sites, and therefore no suitable fish habitat.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> Unarmored Threespine Stickleback	FE	SE	-	-	Does Not Occur. This species is found among emergent vegetation at the edges of small southern California streams with cool (<24° Celsius), clear water and abundant vegetation. There are no stream habitats on the off-haul sites, and therefore no suitable fish habitat.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> Southern Steelhead	FE	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. The federal listing refers to populations from the Santa Maria River south to the southern extent of this species' range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego County). Southern steelhead likely has greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions. There are no stream habitats on the off-haul sites, and therefore no suitable fish habitat.
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS					
<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i> Silvery Legless Lizard	None	None	SC	-	May Occur. This species occupies sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is an essential component of this species' habitat. Suitable habitat occurs on the

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> Coastal Whiptail	None	None	-	-	Unlikely to Occur. This species is found in deserts and semiarid areas with sparse vegetation and open area. It also found in woodland and riparian areas and may occur on firm soil, sandy, or rocky substrates. No suitable habitat occurs at the project sites.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> Western Pond Turtle	None	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation below 6,000 feet, western pond turtles need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying. No suitable habitat occurs on the proposed Off-haul and Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast Horned Lizard	None	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. Coast horned lizard frequents a wide variety of habitats, but is most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. This species requires open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil, and an abundant supply of ants and other insects. No suitable habitat occurs on the sites
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> Two-striped Garter Snake	None	None	SC	-	Does Not Occur. The two-stripe garter snake occurs in coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. It can be found from sea level to about 7,000 feet. This highly aquatic species is found in or near permanent fresh water and often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth. No suitable habitat exists for this species in the proposed project sites.

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
BIRDS					
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored Blackbird	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. This is a highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California, it requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony. This species typically nests in marshy or streamside areas with dense vegetation. No such vegetation occurs in the proposed Off-haul or Sand Removal Sites.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing Owl	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. Preferred habitats include open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. It is a subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, California ground squirrel. No suitable habitat exists on the Sand Removal or Off-haul Sites.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> Western Snowy Plover	FT	None	SC	-	May Occur. This species' preferred habitat includes sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes and needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting. It may occur at off-haul sites C or D, but frequent human use of these sites likely limit the usefulness of the sites to foraging habitat. This species is unlikely to occur near Sand Removal Sites as they are too far from shore.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	FC	SE	-	-	Does not Occur. This species is a riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. It nests in

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					riparian willow thickets; often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape; no such habitat occurs on the proposed project sites.
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i> Belding's Savannah Sparrow	None	SE	-	-	Unlikely to Occur. This sparrow inhabits coastal salt marshes, from Santa Barbara south through San Diego county. It nests in <i>Salicornia</i> on and about margins of tidal flats. Use of the sites by this species is likely to be incidental.
<i>Riparia riparia</i> Bank Swallow	None	ST	-	-	Unlikely to Occur. This species is a colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. It requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, to excavate nesting cavity. Use of the sites by this species is likely to be incidental.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California Least Tern	FE	SE	-	-	May Occur. This species nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. It is a colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas. It may forage near Sites C and D but is unlikely to nest there.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> Least Bell's Vireo	FE	SE	-	-	Does not Occur. This species is a summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2,000 feet. Its nests are placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, <i>Baccharis</i> , mesquite. The proposed project sites contain no suitable

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					habitat for this species.
MAMMALS					
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid Bat	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. This species inhabits deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. It is most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. No suitable roosting sites occur on any the off-haul sites; this species may still use the airspace above the sites as foraging habitat, but is not expected to occur there, except incidentally.
<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i> Dulzura Pocket Mouse	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. This species occurs in a variety of habitats including coastal scrub, chaparral and grassland. It is also attracted to grass-chaparral edges. No such habitat occurs on any site; the species is not expected to occur there.
<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i> Mexican Long-tongued Bat	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. This species feeds on nectar and pollen of night-blooming succulents and roosts in relatively well-lit caves, and in and around buildings. No suitable roosting sites occur on any the sites; this species may still use the airspace above sites as foraging habitat, but is not expected to occur there except incidentally.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western Mastiff Bat	None	None	SC	-	Unlikely to Occur. Western mastiff bats occur in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. They roost in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels. No suitable roosting sites

<i>Scientific Name</i> Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFG	CNPS Status	Species Description and Likelihood of Occurrence
					occur on any of the sites; this species may still use the airspace above the sites as foraging habitat, but it is not expected to occur there except incidentally.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego Desert Woodrat	None	None	SC	-	Does not Occur. San Diego desert woodrat occurs in coastal scrub of Southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies are preferred by this species, where it is particularly abundant in rock outcrops and rocky cliffs and slopes. No suitable habitat for this species occurs on the project sites.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American Badger	None	None	SC	-	Does not Occur. This species is most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. It needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground to survive. No suitable habitat exists for this species on the proposed project sites.

Table Abbreviations:

Federal:

FE = federal endangered
FC = candidate
FT = federal threatened

California State:

CE = California state endangered
CT = California state threatened

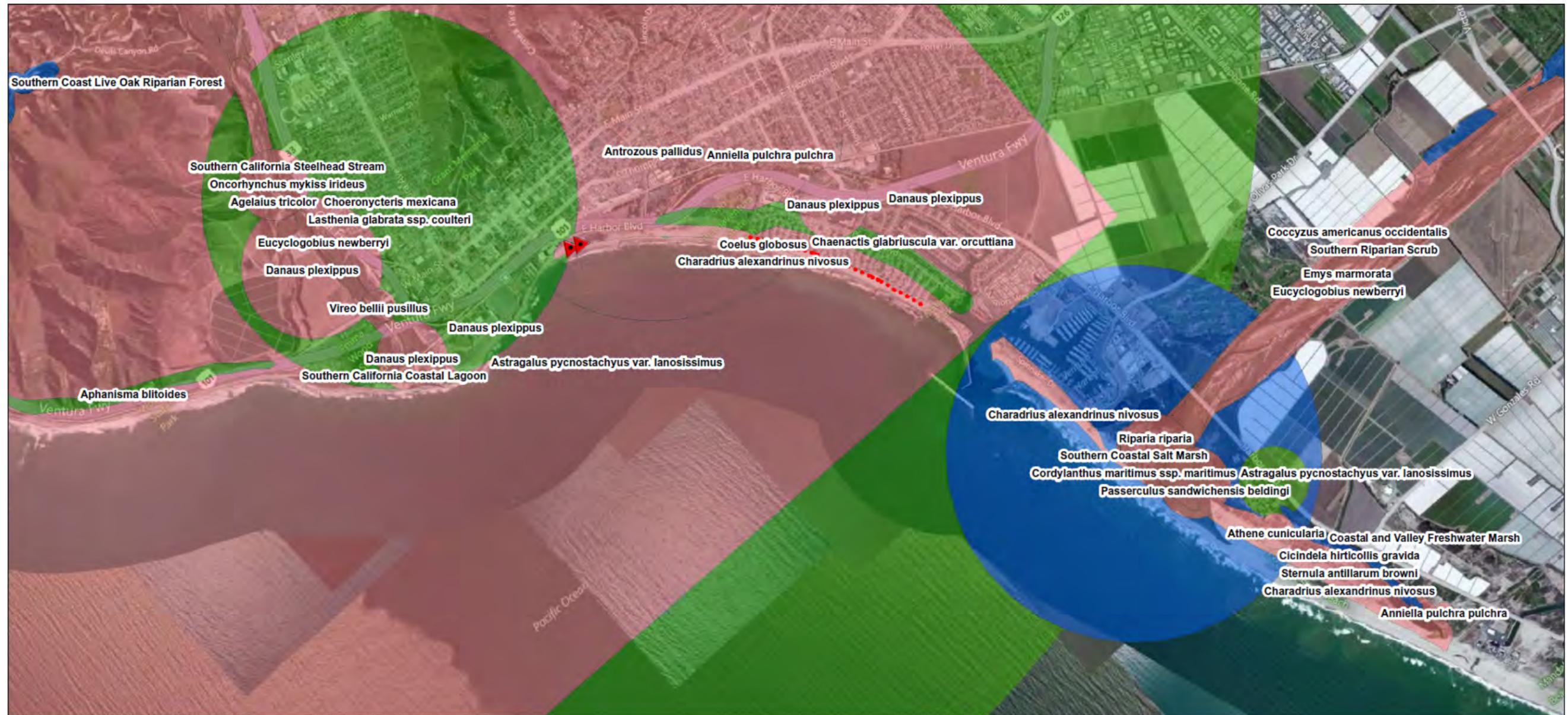
SC = California Species of Special Concern

CNPS* List Categories:

List 1A = plants presumed extinct in California
List 1B = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2 = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere
List 3 = plants about which we need more information
List 4 = plants of limited distribution

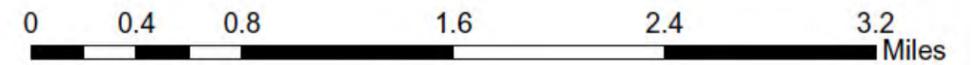
Determination of occurrence probability for plants is based on the Jepson Manual (Hickman ed. 1993) and collection records from the Consortium of California Herbaria available at: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/about.html>

Figure 4. Documented CNDDB Sensitive Species in the Project Vicinity



Legend

- ▲ Off-haul Sites
- Sand Removal Sites
- Plants
- Animals
- Communities



Salt Marsh Bird's-beak

Chloropyron maritimum subsp. *maritimum*

Salt marsh bird's-beak is a hemiparasitic annual plant found in disjunct coastal salt marshes of southern and central California and adjacent northern Baja California, Mexico (USFWS 2009). Plants have naturally patchy distributions in sites subject to only higher tidal influxes in coastal salt marshes (USFWS 2009). This plant grows at elevations below 10 meters and flowers from May to October. Marginally suitable habitat for this species occurs on the Sand Removal Sites.

Sensitive Invertebrates

Sandy Beach Tiger Beetle

Cicindela hirticollis *gravida*

The sandy beach tiger beetle belongs to a group of predatory beetles that rely on speed to overcome small flies, moths, ants, isopods and other arthropods. The adults can be seen on warm sunny days in the spring, summer, or fall on open mud or sand (NAVFAC 2009). This species inhabits areas adjacent to non-brackish water along the coast of California from San Francisco Bay to northern Mexico. It requires clean, dry, light-colored, while subterranean larvae prefer moist sand not affected by wave action (CDFG 2011). Suitable habitat for this species occurs on the Off-haul and Sand Removal Site.

Globose Dune Beetle

Coelus globosus

The globose dune beetle is an inhabitant of dunes and sand hummocks from Bodega Head, Sonoma County to Ensenada, Baja California, including the Channel Islands except San Clemente (CDFG 2011, NAVFAC 2009, Snover 1992). Its range largely overlaps its congeneric and similar *Coelus ciliatus*. The globose dune beetle's numbers have declined due habitat loss, recreational use impacts, and invasive plant species that cause habitat conversion. During the day, *Coelus* remains burrowed beneath dune vegetation; it surfaces at night leaving distinctive furrows in the sand around vegetation perimeters (NAVFAC 2009).

Dune beetles feed on leaves, twigs, seeds, and plant detritus both on the sand surface and below. It also climbs plant canopies to feed showing a marked preference for native plant species over invasive non-natives except for sea rocket (*Cakile maritime*), which is actually preferred by adults over the native dune ragweed (*Ambrosia chamissonis*) (NAVFAC 2009). Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) is especially exclusive of these species (NAVFAC 2009, Snover 1992). Suitable habitat for this species occurs on the Sand Removal Sites.

Monarch Butterfly

Danaus plexippus

The monarch butterfly is a “special animal” in the state of California, and their wintering sites are protected (CDFG 2006). Generally, monarch roosts are located in wind-protected tree groves, with nectar and water sources nearby (CNDDDB 2011). There is no suitable wintering habitat for monarch butterflies on any of the sites. Incidental observation of the species near Sites C and D likely constitutes a fly-over as no suitable roosting habitat occurs there. Similarly, no other sites support roosting habitat.

Sensitive Reptiles

Silvery Legless Lizard

Anniella pulchra pulchra

The silvery legless lizard is a limbless wide-ranging lizard species that occurs in drier, loose sandy soils, from inland foothills to coastal dunes. It normally occurs under detritus or leaf litter. The silvery legless lizard is nearly endemic to California. It ranges from Antioch in Contra Costa County south through the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular Ranges, along the western edge of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and parts of the San Joaquin Valley and Mojave Desert to El Consuelo in Baja California (Hunt 1983, Jennings and Hayes 1994). Its elevation range extends from near sea level on the Monterey Peninsula to approximately 1,800 meters above sea level in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Suitable habitat for the species occurs at Sand Removal Sites.

Sensitive Birds

Western Snowy Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus

The western snowy plover is a small shorebird with pale brown upper parts, dark patches on either side of the upper breast, and dark gray to blackish legs. The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover primarily breeds on coastal beaches from southern Washington to southern Baja California, Mexico. They prefer to breed above the high tide line on coastal beaches, sand spits, dune-backed beaches, sparsely-vegetated dunes, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. During the winter, snowy plovers are found on many of the beaches used for nesting as well as on beaches where they do not nest, including estuarine sand and mudflats (USFWS 2007). The western snowy plover is federally listed as threatened, and is a California Species of Special Concern. Off-haul Sites C and D appear to support suitable habitat

for this species, but extended and frequent human use of these areas probably limits their usefulness as breeding habitat.

California Least Tern

Sterna antillarum browni

The California least tern is the smallest tern that occurs in California. It has relatively slender wings, a short tail, and a long bill. These terns forage for small fish in estuaries and lagoons (Sibley 2003). California least terns require undisturbed sandy beaches or mudflats for nesting. They nest from April through August along the western coast of North America from the San Francisco Bay area, California, to Baja California Sur, Mexico (Keane 2001). The California least tern is federally listed as endangered. It is also listed as endangered in and fully protected by the state of California. There are no confirmed nesting locations in the off-haul and sand removal sites.

Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are areas that are sometimes afforded special legislative protection but that are normally considered of management priority because of their rarity or imperilment, the sensitivity of the species that they support, or because these areas serve multiple functions as is often the case with wetlands. Sensitive habitats are normally rare plant communities but can also refer to a number of environments such as tidal areas, dunes, or pebble plains.

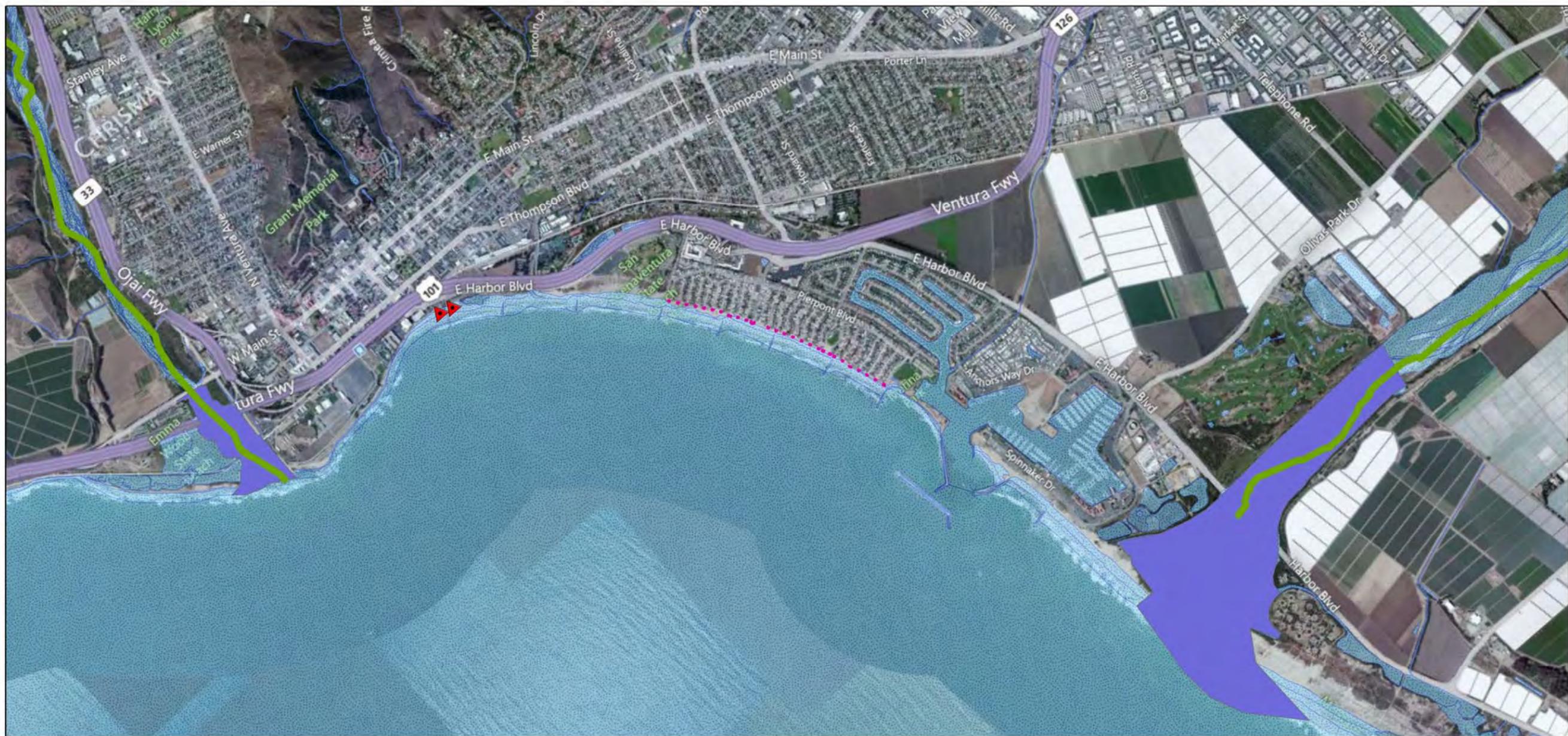
No CNDDDB-listed sensitive habitats occur within the off-haul sites nor are they within designated Critical Habitat for endangered species or potential waters of the United States (Figure 5.). Off-haul sites and sand removal sites are within a tidal zone.

Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Connectivity

Broad continuous expanses of vegetation facilitate free dispersal of species between local areas and at larger scales between regions. Natural processes such as wildlife movement and plant dispersal have formed and dynamically reshaped global floras and faunas for as long as species have been able to disperse. Certain species extinctions have been the result of geographic and other forms of isolation. Prior to accelerated human population growth and expansion these processes generally happened over millennia or longer. In many instances population shifts, isolation, and extinction resulted in speciation (evolution of new species).

The proposed sand off-haul is not expected to impact wildlife dispersal.

Figure 5. Sensitive Species and Sensitive Habitats



Legend

- Sand Off-haul Sites
- Sand Removal Sites
- Steelhead Critical Habitat
- Tidewater Goby Critical Habitat
- Waters of the United States/Waters of the State

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed project has the potential to affect native wildlife and plant species, federally listed species, and birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The following sections present an impact assessment and recommended mitigation to reduce or avoid these impacts.

Thresholds for Determining Significance

Sensitivity ratings assigned to certain biological resources by federal and state resource agencies (e.g., USACOE, USFWS, CDFG), the regional sensitivity of the resource, local significance criteria, and the degree to which the resource may be affected are used in evaluating the significance of an impact. More specifically, Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines provides the criteria for determining the significance of an impact to natural resources. In general, an impact is deemed significant if:

- It conflicts with local, state and federal environmental plans and policies, especially those aimed at protecting sensitive biological resources.
- It has a substantial effect on species listed as endangered or threatened and their habitat, or species that are recognized as rare by state, federal, or scientific agencies and institutions (as defined in CEQA Guidelines) and their habitat.
- It causes a substantial interference with the movement of any migratory fish or wildlife species.
- It results in substantial loss of habitat for fish, wildlife, or plant species.
- It involves the use, production or disposal of materials which pose a hazard to animal or plant populations in the area affected.

Substantial impacts are those of sufficient magnitude or duration that they affect abundance and distribution of a resource or significantly alter its viability. For the purposes of analysis, impacts to biological resources are evaluated by assessing an action's effect on a resource while considering that resource's status. Generally, most impacts on sensitive resources afforded specific legislative protection (specifically, wetlands, federally and state listed species, and coastal habitat) are considered significant. Determination of significance for impacts on resources afforded minimal or no protection (e.g., non-sensitive natural habitats, state species of concern, and locally sensitive species) will be more dependent on the specific factors listed in the CEQA Guidelines.

Potential Impacts to Native Plants and Animals

Sand Removal will impact native plants and animals. This impact includes habitat loss and potential burial and crushing of plants and animals. Sand placement could also inadvertently bury or crush plants and animals on off-haul sites. This impact is not likely to be significant to mobile wildlife species, but may be significant to nesting and denning wildlife on the site (see Potential Impacts to Birds Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act below). Plant impacts will be avoided by removal and relocation of roughly 50% of the native plants in the sand nuisance zone. Since avoidance is possible, appropriate mitigation measures (Recommended Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7) will likely reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Potential Impacts to Listed and Other Sensitive Species

The following summarizes potential impacts to listed and other sensitive species:

1. *Plants*. Orcutt's pincushion and salt marsh bird's-beak are only marginally likely to occur at Sand Removal Sites. Neither plant was detected during these and previous surveys. It is unlikely that sand off-haul operations will impact these species because the sites have been heavily disturbed in the past and there are no indications that these species are present. Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (Recommended Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3 and 6) will help avoid impacts to these species.
2. *Invertebrates*. None of the off-haul sites contain suitable habitat for sandy beach tiger beetle. Both beetles may occur in native vegetation on Sand Removal Sites, but implementation of appropriate mitigation (Recommended Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3 and 7) will help minimize these impacts. Monarch butterflies are unlikely to be affected by the sand removal and placement, since there is no suitable roosting habitat on any of the sites.
3. *Reptiles*. Silvery legless lizards may use Sand Removal Sites. Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (Recommended Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3 and 7) will help avoid impacts to this species.
4. *Birds*. Activities at Site C and D overlap potential habitat for western snowy plover and California least tern; however, none of these sites support known nesting habitat for these species. Furthermore, regular (nearly daily) human use of these sites likely precludes these species from nesting within the project off-haul sites; therefore, use of the sites by these species is likely to be incidental. Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures (Recommended Mitigation Measures 1, 2, 3, and 5) will further avoidance of impacts to these species.

Potential Impacts to Birds Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

There is potential nesting habitat for special-status bird species and many additional native bird species on all off-haul sites. The proposed project activities will be conducted during the local, core nesting bird season (February 15– September 15). This impact would be significant, but is avoidable through implementation of Recommended Mitigation Measure 5.

Potential Impacts to Sensitive Habitats

Off-haul Sites C and D are within a tidal zone, but impacts are expected to be less than significant with implementation of appropriate Recommended Mitigation Measure 4.

Recommended Mitigation Measures

The following measures are recommended to avoid, minimize, correct, reduce, or eliminate impacts to natural resources, special status species, and sensitive habitats.

1. *Pre-construction Surveys and Construction Monitoring.* This survey was conducted prior to proposed sand off-haul and fulfills, in part, this requirement. The purpose of the surveys was to document sensitive plants and animals occurring within proposed project limits. Since special status species and their habitat were found, a qualified biological monitors will be present in suitable habitat areas, as needed, to aid crews in implementing avoidance measures. The biologist will then check site removal and off-haul sites on a weekly basis to ensure mitigation compliance.
2. *Resource Avoidance Marking.* All species or areas to be avoided shall be clearly marked in the field for exclusion from sand spreading by biologists prior to grading and spreading.
3. *Education Program.* A contractor education program that includes an onsite briefing will be implemented to ensure that all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological sensitivities associated with the project and about how to best avoid impacts to these sensitivities.
4. *Equipment Maintenance and Fueling.* Equipment maintenance shall be restricted to designated machinery storage/staging areas offsite and not within any aquatic feature including tidal zones or anywhere on the proposed project site where lubricants, fuels, and other hazardous materials can contaminate protected aquatic or terrestrial resources. Fueling of construction equipment and any other necessary vehicle maintenance shall occur only in designated areas at a distance greater than 100 feet from drainages and

associated plant communities to preclude adverse impacts to water quality should fuel spillage occur.

5. *Surveys for Nesting Birds/Raptors.* Since avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, it is recommended that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for active nests no more than 72 hours prior to any habitat disturbance. Following that initial assessment, weekly inspections will be used to ensure that sites are not later occupied by nesting birds. If no active nests are found, no further action would be required. If nesting activities are observed, any nest sites must be protected until nesting activity has ended or as otherwise determined by a qualified biologist to ensure compliance with MBTA and similar sections of the California Fish and Game Code. If nesting birds are found, a buffer area of no less than 300 feet from raptor or sensitive bird nests and 150 feet from all other species will be in effect. Only construction activities (if any) approved by monitors (biologists) will take place within the buffer zone until the nest is vacated. This would reduce potential impacts to a level of less than significant under CEQA.
6. *Native Plant Removal.* The City of Ventura's contract biologists and restoration specialists will relocate 50% of all native plants in Sand Removal Sites. Removed plants will be transplanted to nearby dunes within State Park jurisdiction. All transplantable individuals will be assigned a number, marked with flagging and mapped using GPS with at least 1-meter resolution. The plants will be assessed for health and condition (i.e., good, fair, poor, or dead) will be recorded. Prior to transplanting, a qualified biologist will ensure that the plants are free of nests and nesting birds (since transplanting occurs between 15 February and 15 August the normal nesting season for most birds). The biologist will also examine plants and surrounding areas for potential impacts to protected wildlife species. All plants with active nests or protected wildlife species will be avoided.

Plant translocation will occur within the sand removal project boundaries. The transplant location for any individual plant shall be the closest area that supports suitable conditions for the species. Relocation sites will attempt to match as closely as possible slope, soil, soil texture, and other micro-habitat conditions. Between 300 and 500 plants will be transplanted.

Although transplantation can occur at any time of the year, the optimal season for transplanting is in the warmer months, when temperatures rarely drop below 60° Fahrenheit. Periods of heavy rain should also be avoided. If transplanting must occur during colder months or during rainfall periods, additional methods may be required to ensure successful transplantation.

Native shrubs shall be excavated by hand. Excavation will occur in a manner that preserves as much of the transplant's root mass as possible. The following two-person method is recommended to ensure successful transplantation of hand-excavated shrub species:

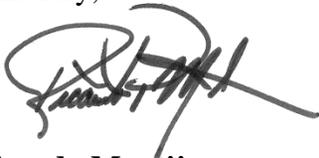
- a. Excavate a 12- to 18-inch trench around the target plant at 12 to 18 inches from the plant to accommodate roots;
- b. Gently pry the plant out of the soil with a shovel;
- c. Move the plant to a shady spot to prevent transplant shock, if not immediately transplanted;
- d. Trim damaged roots with a disinfected knife (a 10% bleach solution is recommended);
- e. Excavate a receiving hole roughly as wide and twice as deep as the hole left by the removed plant;
- f. Replace the soil and firm it by applying pressure with the foot; and,
- g. Water.

Attachment C is a table that summarizes targeted native species by Sand Removal Location.

7. *Sensitive Species Removal and Relocation.* The presence of sensitive beetles and silvery legless lizard is highly possible within the Sand Removal Sites. Biologists retained for plant relocation will also be responsible for identifying and relocating sensitive species detected during the plant relocation. These species will be relocated nearby suitable habitat within State Park jurisdiction.

Please feel free to contact me at (626) 253-0638 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Montijo
Principal/Senior Biologist

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**ATTACHMENT A
FLORA OBSERVED**

Angiosperms Flowering Plants	
Dicotyledons	
Apiaceae	Parsley Family
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Sweet Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
Silver Beach Bur	<i>Ambrosia chamissonis</i>
Western Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>
California Sagebrush	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
Coyote Brush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Mulefat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>
Canadian Horseweed	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>
White Everlasting	<i>Gnaphalium canescens</i> ssp. <i>microcephalum</i>
Sawtooth Goldenbush	<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i> var. <i>grindelioides</i>
Telegraph Weed	<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>
Wild Lettuce	<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *
Common Sow Thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *
Brassicaceae	Mustard Family
Mediterranean Mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *
Chenopodiaceae	Goosefoot Family
Quailbush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</i>
Lamb's Quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>
Fabaceae	Pea Family
Indian Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus indica</i>
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
Red-stemmed Filaree	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *
Onagraceae	Evening Primrose Family
Beach Primrose	<i>Camissonia cheiranthifolia</i>
Polygonaceae	Buckwheat Family
California Coastal Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>foliolosum</i>
Curly Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
Tree Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>
Purple Nightshade	<i>Solanum xanti</i>
Monocotyledons	
Poaceae	Grasses Family
Wild Oats	<i>Avena fatua</i>
Red Brome	<i>Bromus madritensis rubens</i> *
Cheat Grass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i> *
Bermuda Grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *
Giant Rye	<i>Leymus condensatus</i>

Asterisks () denote non-native plant species*

**ATTACHMENT B
FAUNA OBSERVED**

Vertebrates	
Reptiles (Class Reptilia)	
Phrynosomatidae	Spiny Lizard
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western Fence Lizard
Birds (Class Aves)	
Pelecanidae	Pelicans
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican
Charadriidae	Plovers
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer
<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Pacific Golden Plover
Recurvirostridae	Stilts and Avocets
<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	American Avocet
<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Western Sandpiper
Scolopacidae	Sandpipers
<i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling
<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Western Sandpiper
<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Least Sandpiper
<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Long-billed Dowitcher
<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Long-billed Curlew
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel
<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	Willet
Laridae	Gulls
<i>Larus californicus</i>	California Gull
<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Ring-billed Gull
<i>Larus heermannii</i>	Heermann's Gull
<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Western Gull
Columbidae	Pigeons and Doves
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Pigeon*
Trochilidae	Hummingbirds
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird
Tyrannidae	Flycatchers
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
Alaudidae	Larks
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark
Corvidae	Crows and Jays
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American Crow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
Mimidae	Mockingbirds and Thrashers

<i>Mimos polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird
Motacillidae	Pipits and Wagtails
<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	American Pipit
Sturnidae	Starlings
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	European Starling*
Parulidae	Wood Warblers and Relatives
<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Emberizidae	Emberizines
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow
Icteridae	Blackbirds
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark
Fringillidae	Finches
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House Finch
Passeridae	Old World Sparrows
<i>Passer Domesticus</i>	House Sparrow*
Mammals (Class Mammalia)	
Didelphidae	Opossums
<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>	Common Opossum*
Sciuridae	Squirrels, Chipmunks and Marmots
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California Ground Squirrel
Canidae	Foxes, Wolves and Relatives
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> (= <i>Canis familiaris</i>)	Domestic Dog*

* Non-native and introduced species

ATTACHMENT C
SAND REMOVAL SITES AND PLANT SPECIES

Site	Species	Relocate
San Pedro	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
San Pedro	Abronia umbellata	Yes
San Pedro	Cakile maritima	No
Sharon	Cynodon dactylon	No
Sharon	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Sharon	Abronia umbellata	Yes
Sharon	Cakile maritima	No
Woodstock	No Plants	No
Woodstock	Oxalis pes-caprae	No
Woodstock	Cakile maritima	No
Woodstock	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Woodstock	Camissonia cheiranthifolia	Yes
Waterbury	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Waterbury	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Waterbury	Cakile maritima	No
Brockton	No Plants	No
Driftwood	Camissonia cheiranthifolia	Yes
Driftwood	Cakile maritima	No
Driftwood	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Belfast	Landscaping	No
Belfast	Cakile maritima	No
Bangor	No Plants	No
Dover	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Dover	Oxalis pes-caprae	No
Dover	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Bath	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Montauk	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Seaward	No Plants	No
Pittsfield	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Winthrop	No Plants	No
Shelburn	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Shelburn	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Cornwall	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Cornwall	Atriplex sp.	Yes
Cornwall	Cakile maritima	No
Kingston	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Brunswick	No Plants	No

Site	Species	Relocate
Norwich	No Plants	No
New Bedford	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
New Bedford	Cakile maritima	No
New Bedford	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Martha's Vineyard	No Plants	No
Sagamore	No Plants	No
Devon	No Plants	No
Weymouth	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Hanover	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Camden	No Plants	No
Nathan	Carpobrotus edulis	No
Greenock	Ambrosia chamissonis	Yes
Greenock	Cakile maritima	No
Greenock	Landscaping	No