

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Finding: No impact

The project area is characterized as an urban, developed aviation and/or industrial corridor. The project area has undergone disturbance previously resulting from development at the site and across the Airport. The project site has been developed with structures and/or covered with pavement since approximately the late 1960s. Due to existing development, the project site is considered to be approximately 100 percent impervious. Vegetation on the site is limited to landscaping associated with existing development along Waterman Drive, a private roadway. Furthermore, the Reseda - West Van Nuys Community Plan designates the project site for aviation purposes which is not considered conducive to biological resources or their habitat. Due to the length of time that the developed and impervious conditions have existed at the project site, candidate, sensitive, or special status species or habitat are not thought or known to exist on the site.

Additionally, according to the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, the project site is not located within a designated Biological Resources Area. Therefore, the likelihood of sensitive species on the project site is considered low and the project will not result in a biological resources impact due to a substantial adverse effect on candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Finding: No impact

See response to Section IV(a), Biological Resources. Due to the length of time that the developed and impervious conditions have existed at the project site, riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities are not thought or known to exist on the site. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) map, Van Nuys Quadrangle, does not identify a blue line stream or body of water at or adjacent to the Site.⁴ Therefore, the project will not result in an adverse impact to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified by local or regional plans or the California Department of Fish and Game.

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Finding: No impact

⁴United States Department of the Interior, USGS Map, Van Nuys Quadrangle. 1966, Photorevised 1972.

See responses to Section IV (a) and (b), Biological Resources. Due to the length of time that the developed and impervious conditions have existed at the project site, federally protected wetlands communities are not thought or known to exist on the site. Therefore, the project will not result in a substantial adverse impact to federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Finding: No impact

According to the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, the project site is not located within a Biological Resources Area which are thought to meet habitat needs for plants and animals and promote wildlife migration or movement. The project area is characterized as an urban, developed aviation and/or industrial corridor. The project area has undergone disturbance previously resulting from development at the site specifically and at the Airport as a whole. The project site has been developed with structures and/or covered with pavement since approximately the late 1960s. Vegetation on the site is limited to landscaping associated with existing development. Due to the length of time that the developed and impervious conditions have existed at the project site, migratory fish and wildlife and their associated habitat are not thought or known to exist on the site.

The Reseda - West Van Nuys Community Plan designates the project site for industrial (aviation) uses which is not considered conducive to biological resources or their habitat. According to the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, the project site is not located within a designated Biological Resources Area.⁵ Therefore, the likelihood of wildlife and associated habitat on the project site is considered low. The project site is surrounded by developed Airport operations on all sides that do not support the habitation or migration of wildlife. The project site is not located near or within a migratory corridor. Therefore, the project will not interfere substantially with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or their migratory wildlife corridors.

- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Finding: No impact

The Protected Tree Ordinance is the only local ordinance that protects biological resources. The project site has been developed and covered with either structures or pavement since the late 1960s. Vegetation on site is limited to landscaping associated with existing development which includes approximately five trees located along the Waterman Drive frontage. No protected trees are located on the project site. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on protected trees and will not significantly impact local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources.

⁵City of Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, Biological Resources Section, Figure BR-1A Biological Resource Areas (Valley Geographical Area), Page 2.18-3.

- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Finding: No impact

The project area is characterized as an urban, developed aviation and/or industrial corridor. The project area has undergone disturbance previously resulting from development at the site specifically and at the Airport as a whole. The project site has been developed with structures and/or covered with pavement since the late 1960s.

According to the Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, the project site is not located within a Biological Resources Area which are known to support the habitat and movement of sensitive species.⁶ The project site is not located within a Significant Ecological Area, as defined by the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. Therefore, the project will not result in a significant impact to an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

⁶City of Los Angeles Citywide General Plan Framework, Biological Resources Section, Figure BR-1A Biological Resource Areas (Valley Geographical Area), Page 2.18-3.