ATTACHMENT 9: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT, DATED JANUARY 14, 2021

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REVISED BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
AUTUMN BRANDS, LLC AND OCEAN HILL FARMS, LLC
CANNABIS CULTIVATION PROJECT (19CDH-00000-00001)
3615 FOOTHILL ROAD (APN 005-280-041), CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tables

Figures

Appendices

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Revised Biological Resources Assessment (Revised Assessment) was prepared in support of a Coastal Development Permit with Hearing application (19CDH-00000-00001) from the County of Santa Barbara (County) for the Autumn Brands, LLC and Ocean Hill Farms, LLC (Applicants) Cannabis Cultivation Project (Project), located at 3615 Foothill Road (APN 005-280-041), Carpinteria, California.

This Revised Assessment has been prepared in compliance with County Ordinance 5027 and the corresponding requirements of Land Use Development Code (LUDC) §35.42.075 (Cannabis Regulations) and is also applicable to the requirements by other California resources agencies (e.g., California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The investigations were completed by Storrer Environmental Services, LLC (SES).

The objectives and scope of this Revised Assessment are to 1) identify the nature and extent of biological resources present within and in proximity to the cannabis cultivation area, with focus on native habitats and/or species afforded special protection by federal, state, and/or local policies and regulations; 2) recommend measures to minimize project-related impacts to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH); 3) include a Tree Protection, Habitat Protection, and/or Wildlife Movement Plan (if necessary) per the County's LUDC; 4) determine whether there are any site-specific impacts not generally assessed in the County's Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program (County 2017); and, 5) address items listed on the County's Biological Assessment Pre-Screening Findings checklist and the County Staff comments from the conference calls that occurred on June 24 and July 1, 2020.

1.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The Project Site is approximately 24 acres located at 3615 Foothill Road, approximately 0.6-mile west of the City of Carpinteria, within the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District (CCC 2015) (Latitude 34.418425 °, Longitude -119.552548 °) (Figure 1 – Site Vicinity Map).

Based on historic and aerial imagery, the parcel has been in agricultural production since approximately 1967. The property has been operated by B&H Flowers, Inc. and leased from the current landowner (Brand Partnership) for cut flower production since 1989. Flower production included over 400,000 square feet (10.6 acres) of greenhouse space and featured a closed loop, hydroponic irrigation system to capture and reuse water and nutrients. In addition to greenhouse production, portions of the property have been historically used for avocado orchards and field flower production.

In 2007, a man-made detention basin and bioswale were constructed in the southwest corner of the parcel to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (i.e., greenhouse roofs and parking areas) prior to discharge into Arroyo Paredon Creek. The detention basin and bioswale were constructed as part of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The detention basin and bioswale were designed/constructed based on an NRCS alternatives analysis and designs for the hydrology, hydraulics, and structural components of the agricultural operations to control runoff and protect water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation to Arroyo Paredon Creek.

The detention basin and bioswale were situated in the southwest corner of the parcel, primarily in upland habitat that had been previously developed/cleared of vegetation. However, based on aerial imagery analysis, an approximately 7,500 square foot area of the riparian canopy along the creek appears to have been removed during construction of the bioswale. This area will be restored as part of the proposed Project.

There is an existing perimeter road that parallels the property fence line. The road is paved on the eastern side of the Project Site and transitions to a dirt surface in the southern and southwestern portions of the property. The portion of the dirt road that is within the County-prescribed setback from Arroyo Paredon Creek will be removed as part of the Project and restored as part of the restoration effort described below.

1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is for a Coastal Development Permit with Hearing (CDH) to allow 388,472 square feet (8.92 acres) of cannabis and nursery cultivation. Processing Building #1 (23,072 square feet) and Processing Building #2 (4,870 square feet) will be utilized for ancillary cultivation activities (drying, trimming, packaging). All cultivation activities will be located within existing structures (i.e., seven greenhouses and two separate processing structures) (Figures 2a-2c – Site Plans).

The Project also includes the following: installation of a new septic system (Figure 2b); removal of one trailer, a shipping container, two water tanks; demolition of approximately 6,205 square feet of unpermitted development in the southeastern corner of the property; replacement of 428 linear feet of the existing chain link perimeter fence in the southwestern corner of the property with "wildlife-friendly" barb wire fencing; relocation of 580 linear feet of chain link security fencing; and, riparian habitat restoration in the southwestern corner of the property (Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan). The following existing structures are to be validated: boiler room, irrigation room, and storage area. An emergency backup generator is also proposed to be stored onsite.

The existing eight-foot tall chain link perimeter fencing will be augmented with landscape/privacy slats along Foothill Road to provide additional screening of the site. As requested by the County, the perimeter fence in the southwest corner of the Project Site, adjacent to the top of bank (TOB) of Arroyo Paredon Creek, will be removed and replaced with a wildlife-friendly fence (e.g., barb wire). Security fencing will be relocated and will encompass only existing paved areas and infrastructure (Figures 2a-2c – Site Plans).

Per the RWQCB Disturbed Area Stabilization Plan (DASP), all waste will be stored in secured cannabis waste storage areas located to the east of Greenhouse 5 and the west of Greenhouse 1 and disposed of off-site. Agricultural chemicals (e.g., fertilizers, etc.) will be stored in the existing metal chemical storage shed located at the center of the property with secondary containment (Figures 2a-2c – Site Plans). In compliance with the DASP, waste and chemical storage are beyond 150 feet from Arroyo Paredon Creek and beyond 50 feet from the unnamed drainage that is tributary to Arroyo Paredon Creek.

As described above, the majority of stormwater runoff on the property is directed to the detention basin and bioswale, which allow for sediment to settle and protect water quality by reducing

erosion and sedimentation to Arroyo Paredon Creek. In addition, Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented per the DASP requirements include: secondary containment and setbacks for waste and chemical storage; regular removal of sediment build-up from drainage alleyways/gutters; impermeable floors in the greenhouses; tail water catchment within the greenhouses; monitoring and repair of erosion (e.g., rills); and, maintenance of access roads so that they continue meeting the requirements of the cannabis general order and *The Handbook for Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads* (Weaver et al. 2014).

The Project Site contains an existing single family dwelling which is not part of the cannabis operations. The cannabis operation will be served by an existing agricultural water well, the onsite septic system, and by the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire District.

1.2.1 Proposed Riparian Restoration Area

As mentioned above, riparian habitat restoration is proposed as part of the Project. The proposed Riparian Restoration Area is an approximately 22,500 square foot area adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek, on the southwestern side of the Project Site (Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan). A combination of cuttings, 4-inch pots, 1-gallon, and 5-gallon container plantings will be used to establish native vegetation in this area and improve the riparian habitat adjacent to the corridor of Arroyo Paredon Creek. A variety of regionally appropriate shrubs and herbs will be planted to improve ecosystem functions, support a wider diversity of wildlife, and be compatible with existing riparian habitat. All recommended shrubs and herbaceous plant species are native to the south coast of Santa Barbara County. Planting palettes are summarized in Table 1 and Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan.

Table 1 – Proposed Planting Palette for Riparian Restoration Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Container Size	Quantity
Trees			
Platanus racemosa	Western sycamore	5 gallon	5
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	1 or 5 gallon	4
Shrubs			
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	1 gallon	20
Baccharis salicifolia	Mulefat	cuttings or 1 gallon	33
Encelia californica	Bush sunflower	1 gallon	32
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat	1 gallon	22
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	1 or 5 gallon	17
Malosma laurina	Laurel sumac	1 gallon	14
Rosa californica	California rose	1 gallon	16
Rubus ursinus	California blackberry	1 gallon	21
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo willow	cuttings or 1 gallon	39
Sambucus nigra ssp. *caerulea*	Blue elderberry	1 gallon	16
Venegasia carpesioides	Canyon sunflower	1 gallon	44

Scientific Name	Common Name	Container Size	Quantity
Vines			
Clematis ligusticifolia	Creek clematis	1 gallon	10
Perennial Herbs			
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	1 gallon	25
Salvia spathacea	Hummingbird sage	1 gallon	29
Perennial Grasses			
Elymus triticoides	Alkali rye	1 gallon	126
Stipa [Nassella] pulchra	Purple needlegrass	1 gallon	70

Container plants will be acquired from and/or contract collected and grown by a local wholesale California native seed distributer and/or plant nursery. Using plants grown from locally sourced seed will take advantage of the local genetic adaptations of these species. All container plants shall be propagated from material (seed or cuttings) collected from local south coast watersheds from Gaviota to Rincon.

Maintenance in the Riparian Restoration Area will be performed for a period of 5 years from the completion of installation and will include weed eradication, irrigation, and trash removal. The primary maintenance activity in the Riparian Restoration Area will be the control of non-native, invasive plant species. Mulch application around container plantings and the proposed 5-foot wide mulch path along the north side of the barb wire protective fencing will help reduce the prevalence of invasive and non-native plant species in the Riparian Restoration Area (Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan).

Invasive plant species should be regularly managed by manual/mechanical treatments (e.g., hand pulling, weed whipping). Although hand pulling is the environmentally preferred method for weed management, this technique may not be effective for some deep-rooted and rhizotomous weeds or for large patches of broadleaf species. If herbicides are to be used in the Riparian Restoration Area they must be suitable for use near aquatic environments, such as *Aquamaster* and/or *Rodeo*, and will not be used within 72 hours of a rain event. Additional details on site preparation, planting specifications, irrigation, and maintenance are provided in Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan.

As noted above, the portion of the existing dirt road that is within the County-prescribed setback from Arroyo Paredon Creek will be removed as part of the Project and included in the Riparian Restoration Area. The remainder of the prescribed setback from Arroyo Paredon Creek on the southwestern side of the Project Site (i.e., the area between the Riparian Restoration Area and Existing Greenhouse #7) will be mowed annually to reduce non-native, invasive plant species spread into the Riparian Restoration Area and creek corridor (Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan). No ground disturbance will occur within the prescribed setback as part of mowing; roots will be left in place to maintain soil stability. No other activity is proposed in or adjacent to the prescribed setback from Arroyo Paredon Creek.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project Site is located in the Coastal Zone, approximately 0.4-mile south of foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains and 0.3-mile east of the Pacific Ocean (Figure 1 – Site Vicinity Map). Surrounding land use is predominantly agriculture, with residential neighborhoods to the north.

The parcel is zoned agriculture (AG-1-20) and nearly the entire parcel is currently in agricultural production, with exception of the existing residence near Foothill Road. Arroyo Paredon Creek runs along the southern Project Site boundary and there is an unnamed drainage that is tributary to the creek along the eastern Project Site boundary. The existing perimeter fence line parallels the top-of-bank (TOB) of the creek and the tributary (Appendix A – Site Photographs). Agricultural use on the property consists primarily of indoor greenhouses and support structures (e.g., equipment storage areas, processing areas, etc.) and there is an avocado orchard in the northwest corner.

The property slopes gently to the southwest, toward Arroyo Paredon Creek, and ranges in elevation from 77 feet above mean sea level (msl) at the northeast corner along Foothill Road to approximately 21 feet above msl at the southwest corner. Based on review of the Web Soil Survey of the of Santa Barbara County, California, South Coastal Part the following five soil units are mapped in the Project Site:

- Ballard fine sandy loam (BaC), 2 to 9 percent slopes. The central portion of the Project Site is comprised of the BaC soil type. Ballard fine sandy loam is a well-drained soil that forms in alluvial fans. BaC parent material is alluvium derived from sedimentary rock. Ballard fine sandy loam is considered prime farmland if irrigated (NRCS 2020).
- Camarillo fine sandy loam (Cb), fine substratum. The southwestern corner of the Project Site is comprised of the Cb soil type. Camarillo fine sandy loam is a poorly drained soil that forms in floodplains. Cb parent material is alluvium derived from calcareous sedimentary rock. Camarillo fine sandy loam is considered farmland of statewide importance (NRCS 2020);
- Elder sandy loam (EaA), 0 to 2 percent slopes. The southeastern corner of the Project Site is comprised of the EaA soil type. Elder sandy loam is a well-drained soil that forms on alluvial fans and floodplains. The parent material consists of mixed alluvium. Elder sandy loam is considered prime farmland if irrigated (NRCS 2020); and,
- Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loams (MeC & MeD2), 2 to 15 percent slopes. The northeastern corner of the Project Site is comprised of the MeC and MeD2 soil types. Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loam is a moderately well-grained soil that occurs on terraces. MeC and MeD2 parent material consists of mixed alluvium. Milpitas-Positas fine sandy loam is considered prime farmland if irrigated (NRCS 2020).

3.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Sensitive biological resources, including special-status plant and wildlife species, unique plant communities, wildlife corridors, nesting birds, and jurisdictional waters and wetlands, are protected under various federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and land use policies. The following sections summarize the regulations and policies administered by resource agencies

pertaining to biological resources that are known to occur or have the potential to occur on the property.

3.1 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

3.1.1 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) provides for the protection of plant and animal species listed by the federal government as "endangered" or "threatened," and "the ecosystems upon which they depend." The USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for administration of the federal ESA. An "endangered" species is one that is "in danger of extinction" throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A "threatened" species is one that is "likely to become endangered" within the foreseeable future. The ESA prohibits "take" of threatened or endangered species except under certain circumstances and only with authorization from the USFWS. "Take" as defined by the ESA, "means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." This can also include the modification of a species' habitat. For plants, this statute governs removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any listed plant on federal land and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any listed plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 U.S.C. § 1538(c)).

When non-federal entities, such as states, counties, local governments, and private landowners, wish to conduct an otherwise lawful activity that might incidentally, but not intentionally, "take" a listed species, an incidental take permit must first be obtained via formal consultation with the USFWS using one of two methods. If a federal nexus is not available, an incidental take permit (ITP) must be obtained for the project following formal consultation with the USFWS via Section 10 of the ESA (ESA § 10(a)(1)(B)).

If a federal nexus is available, then an incidental take permit may be obtained by the federal agency involved in the nexus (e.g., USACE) via Section 7 of the ESA (ESA § 7). Section 7 stipulates that any federal agency action that may affect a species listed as threatened or endangered requires a formal consultation with USFWS to ensure that the action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)). The Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS at the conclusion of the consultation may include authorization for incidental take of a listed species.

3.1.2 Clean Water Act – Section 404

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is comprehensive legislation established to protect the nation's water from pollution by setting water quality standards and by limiting the discharge of effluents in the waters of the United States. Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Section 404 of the CWA is jointly administered and enforced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Activities in waters of the U.S. regulated under Section 404 include dredge or fill for development, water resources projects (i.e., dams and levees), infrastructure development (i.e., highways and airports), and mining projects. With the exception of certain farming and forestry activities that are exempt from Section 404 regulation, a Section 404 permit is required before any dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the

U.S. The Section 404 program prohibits discharge of dredged or fill material if waters of the U.S. would be significantly degraded or a practical alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment.

3.1.3 Waters of the U.S.

On April 21, 2020, the EPA and USACE published the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (2020 Rule) that defines waters of the U.S. and clarifies the limits of federal jurisdiction over wetlands, streams, and ditches under the CWA. The 2020 Rule became effective on June 22, 2020.

3.1.3.1 Jurisdictional Waters

For purposes of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations, the term "waters of the U.S." means:

(1) The territorial seas, and waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;

(2) Tributaries;

(3) Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and,

(4) Adjacent wetlands.

The limit of USACE's jurisdiction in non-tidal waters extends to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). The term OHWM means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

The term adjacent wetlands applies to wetlands that:

(i) Abut, meaning to touch at least at one point or side of, a water identified in paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of this section;

(ii) Are inundated by flooding from a water identified in paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of this section in a typical year;

(iii) Are physically separated from a water identified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this section only by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature; or

(iv) Are physically separated from a water identified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this section only by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure so long as that structure allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the water identified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this section in a typical year, such as through a culvert, flood or tide gate, pump, or similar artificial feature. An adjacent wetland is jurisdictional in its entirety when a road or similar artificial structure divides the wetland, as long as the structure allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection through or over that structure in a typical year.

The term "lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters" means:

Standing bodies of open water that contribute surface water flow to a water identified in paragraph (1) of this section in a typical year either directly or through one or more waters identified in paragraph (2), (3), or (4) of this section. A lake, pond, or impoundment of a jurisdictional water does not lose its jurisdictional status if it contributes surface water flow to a downstream jurisdictional water in a typical year through a channelized non-jurisdictional surface water feature, through a culvert, dike, spillway, or similar artificial feature, or through a debris pile, boulder field, or similar natural feature. A lake or pond, or impoundment of a jurisdictional water is also jurisdictional if it is inundated by flooding from a water identified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this section in a typical year.

3.1.3.2 Non-jurisdictional Waters

Per the 2020 Rule, the following are not "waters of the U.S.":

(1) Waters or water features that are not identified in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), or (4) of the previous section;

(2) Groundwater, including groundwater drained through subsurface drainage systems;

(3) Ephemeral features, including ephemeral streams, swales, gullies, rills, and pools;

(4) Diffuse stormwater run-off and directional sheet flow over upland;

(5) Ditches that are not waters identified in paragraphs (1) or (2) of the previous section, and those portions of ditches constructed in waters identified in paragraph (4) of the previous section that do not satisfy the definitions of adjacent wetlands;

(6) Prior converted cropland;

(7) Artificially irrigated areas, including fields flooded for agricultural production, that would revert to upland should application of irrigation water to that area cease;

(8) Artificial lakes and ponds, including water storage reservoirs and farm, irrigation, stock watering, and log cleaning ponds, constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters, so long as those artificial lakes and ponds are not impoundments of jurisdictional waters;

(9) Water-filled depressions constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters incidental to mining or construction activity, and pits excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel;

(10) Stormwater control features constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters to convey, treat, infiltrate, or store stormwater run-off;

(11) Groundwater recharge, water reuse, and wastewater recycling structures, including detention, retention, and infiltration basins and ponds, constructed or excavated in upland or in non-jurisdictional waters; and,

(12) Waste treatment systems.

3.2 STATE REGULATIONS

3.2.1 California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code § 2050, et seq.)

Fish and wildlife resources are protected by a number of laws and programs administered by the CDFW, formerly the California Department of Fish and Game. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) generally parallels the provisions of the federal ESA, and states that "all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved."

Under the CESA, "endangered" is defined as "a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range;" and "threatened" is defined as "a native species or subspecies of a bird, mammal, fish, amphibian, reptile, or plant that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts." "Take" is defined as "to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" an individual of a species, but the definition does not include "harm" or "harass," as the ESA does. As a result, the threshold for a take under the CESA is higher than that under the federal ESA. Exceptions to the take prohibition are limited to authorization of collection for "necessary scientific research".

Consistent with the CESA, CDFW has established lists of endangered, threatened, and candidate species that may or may not be included on a federal ESA list. CDFW also maintains a list of Species of Special Concern for those species that have declining populations, limited distribution, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, educational, or recreational value. In addition, CDFW manages a "watch list" of species that have been de-listed or are vulnerable. Species of Special concern and watch list species are not afforded the same legal protection as listed species.

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2081, CESA allows for incidental take permits to otherwise lawful development projects that could result in the take of a state-listed threatened or endangered species. The application for an incidental take permit under Section 2081(b) has a number of requirements including the preparation of a conservation plan, generally referred to as a Habitat Conservation Plan. CESA emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate mitigation planning to offset project-caused losses of listed species.

3.2.2 Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code §§ 1900 - 1913, § 2062 and § 2067)

The CDFW also manages the California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA), which designates and protects species eligible for state listing. Eligible species include those identified on California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Ranks (CRPRs) 1A, 1B, and 2 meet the definitions of Sections 1901, Chapter 10 (NPPA) or Sections 2062 and 2067 (CESA) of the California Fish and Game Code. CRPR 3 and 4 species, though not meeting the criteria for listing by CDFW, may be considered during project review by the agencies.

3.2.3 Clean Water Act – Section 401

The CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Section 401 Certification) provides states and authorized tribes an opportunity to address the aquatic resource impacts of federally issued permits and licenses, to help protect water quality. Under Section 401 of the CWA, any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in any discharge into waters of the U.S. must obtain a Section 401 Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that the proposed activity will comply with state water quality standards. In California, Section 401 Certifications are issued by Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) located throughout the state. The Central Coast RWQCB issues Section 401 Certifications for projects in the County. The federal CWA Section 404 permit is dependent on and subject to the terms of the Section 401 Certification. Therefore, under Section 401, a federal agency cannot issue a permit or license for an activity that may result in discharge into waters of the U.S. until the RWQCB has granted or waived the Section 401 Certification. Section 401 Certification is limited to federally jurisdictional waters and wetlands. In response to the federal 2020 Rule, SWRCB has adopted a new policy effective on May 28, 2020.

3.2.3.1 Waters of the State

California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 3831(w) states that "all waters of the United States are also 'waters of the state.'" This regulation has remained in effect despite federal decisions which added limitations to what could be considered a water of the U.S. Therefore, the regulation reflects the SWRCB's intent to include a broad interpretation of waters of the U.S. into the definition of waters of the state. Waters of the state includes features that have been determined by the EPA or the USACE to be "waters of the U.S." in an approved jurisdictional determination; "waters of the U.S." identified in an aquatic resource report certified by the USACE upon which a permitting decision was based; and features that are consistent with any current or historic final judicial interpretation of "waters of the U.S." or any current or historic federal regulation defining "waters of the U.S."

Because the interpretation of waters of the U.S. in place at the time section 3831(w) was adopted was broader than subsequent definitions (including the 2020 Rule) that incorporated more limitations into the scope of federal jurisdiction, it is consistent with the SWRCB's intent to include both historic and current definitions of waters of the U.S. into the SWRCB's wetland jurisdictional framework. Further, a wetland will continue to be protected when it has been regulated in the past as a water of the U.S. regardless of any subsequent changes in federal regulations. The inclusion of both current and historic definitions of "waters of the U.S." will help ensure some regulatory stability in an area that has otherwise been in flux. Like the other categories of the SWRCB's wetland jurisdictional framework, the status as a water of the U. S. may only be used to establish that a wetland qualifies as a water of the state; it cannot be used to exclude a wetland from qualifying as a water of the state. In other words, wetlands that are categorically excluded from qualifying as a water of the U.S. may nevertheless qualify as waters of the state under another jurisdictional category.

The SWRCB generally excludes certain areas and activities from the application procedures in order to better align the SWRCB's dredge or fill program with the federal CWA section 404 program. Activities and areas excluded from the procedures include:

(1) Normal farming, ranching, and silviculture activities; constructing and maintaining stock or farm ponds and irrigation ditches; constructing or maintaining farm, forest, or

mining roads; maintaining or reconstructing structures that are currently serviceable; and constructing temporary sediment basins for construction;

(2) Suction dredge mining;

(3) Routine emergency operation and maintenance activities;

(4) Prior converted cropland that was cleared, drained, or otherwise manipulated for cropland use prior to December 23, 1985;

(5) Fields used for rice cultivation; and,

(6) Features used for agricultural purposes (e.g., stock ponds, irrigation ditches, etc.).

3.2.4 SWRCB Cannabis Cultivation Policy – Principles and Guidelines for Cannabis Cultivation (Attachment A)

The SWRCB has adopted "General Requirements and Prohibitions" with respect to cannabis cultivation. Among these are "minimum riparian setbacks" measured from the edge of the wetland as determined by a qualified professional familiar with the USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual. Prescribed setbacks for cannabis cultivation and support facilities (e.g., materials/vehicle storage, pumps, water storage tanks) are as follows:

- Perennial watercourses (e.g. lakes, ponds, springs): 150 feet;
- Intermittent watercourses or wetlands: 100 feet;
- Ephemeral watercourses: 50 feet; and,
- Man-made irrigation canals and reservoirs: limits of riparian vegetation zone.

The SWRCB guidelines also include requirements for cleanup, restoration, and mitigation for impacts to riparian vegetation and/or oak trees. A revegetation plan may be required for impacts to these habitat types resulting from cannabis operations.

3.2.5 California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 722 – General Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement or Activities Related to Cannabis Cultivation (General Agreement)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requires a General Agreement under the referenced statute for "construction, reconstruction or repair of stream crossings in the form of a bridge, culvert, or rock ford, and water diversion on non-finfish rivers streams and lakes that are used or will be used for the purpose of cannabis cultivation, each a "covered activity"".

3.3 LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES

3.3.1 County Stream and Riparian Habitat Protection

The Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County 2008) defines riparian habitat as the "terrestrial or upland area adjacent to freshwater bodies, such as the banks of creeks and streams, the shores of lakes and ponds, and aquifers which emerge at the surface as springs or seeps. This habitat can also occur along arroyos and barrancas, and other types of drainages throughout the County".

County-prescribed setbacks (i.e., buffer areas) from the outer (upland) edge of the riparian canopy, or the top-of-bank of the water body in the absence of riparian vegetation, are 50 feet in urban

areas, and 100 feet in rural areas. Intrusion within the buffer areas for riparian habitats and streams may be considered significant.

3.3.2 Oak Tree Protection

The County's Standard Conditions and Mitigation Measures (County 2011) require that grading, trenching, ground disturbance, construction activities and structural development occur beyond six feet of the dripline of all oak trees. Mitigation for impacted coast live oak trees requires posting of a performance security and tree replacement at a 10:1 ratio, preferably on-site (County 2019).

3.3.3 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

This Revised Assessment is intended to support County review of the proposed Project. The adopted County-wide Programmatic FEIR for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program (County 2017) generally covers individual cannabis projects when the EIR CEQA analysis applies. The guidelines for determining CEQA significance are followed in this Revised Assessment. The following threshold criteria, as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Initial Study Checklist, were used to evaluate potential effects to biological resources. Based on these criteria, the proposed Project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

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 Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on State or federally protected wetlands (including marsh, vernal pool, and coastal areas) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

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.

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

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.

In addition, based on the following County-adopted CEQA thresholds from the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County 2008) the Project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- Substantially reduce or eliminate species diversity or abundance.
- Substantially reduce or eliminate quantity or quality of nesting areas.

- Substantially limit reproductive capacity through losses of individuals or habitat.
- Substantially fragment, eliminate, or otherwise disrupt foraging areas and/or access to food sources.
- Substantially limit or fragment range and movement (geographic distribution or animals and/or seed dispersal routes).
- Substantially interfere with natural processes, such as fire or flooding, upon which the habitat depends.

3.3.4 County Land Use Development Code (LUDC) §35.42.075

The County LUDC provides development standards, permit requirements, and procedures for commercial cannabis activities (County 2019). As summarized in Appendix J: Cannabis Activities Additional Standards of the LUDC, the following measures are to be implemented to protect biological resources, if present.

A. Tree Protection Plan

A.1. The Applicant for a land use entitlement for a commercial cannabis activity that would involve pruning, damage, or removal of a native tree, shall prepare and submit to the County Planning and Development Department (Department) a Tree Protection Plan prepared by a Department-approved arborist designed to determine whether avoidance, minimization, or compensatory measures are necessary.

B. Habitat Protection Plan

B.1. The Applicant for a land use entitlement for a cannabis activity that would involve clearing of native vegetation or other sensitive vegetation in an area that has been identified as having a medium to high potential of being occupied by a special-status wildlife species, nesting bird, or a Federal or State-listed special-status plant species, shall prepare and submit a Habitat Protection Plan prepared by a Department-approved biologist, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as required for State or Federal permits and State or Federally listed species, designed to determine whether avoidance, minimization, or compensatory measures are necessary.

B.3. If the project site is located within the known habitat of a species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the USFWS and/or CDFW, the issuance of a permit does not relieve the permit-holder of any duties, obligations, or responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act or any other law.

C. Wildlife Movement Plan

C.1. The Applicant shall prepare a Wildlife Movement Plan for all commercial cannabis activities proposed in or near wildlife movement areas for the Department's review and approval. A Department-approved biologist shall review the Plan and confirm the adequacy of design for passage of smaller wildlife and safe prevention of entry by larger mammals, such as deer. The Applicant shall demonstrate to the Department that all

perimeter fencing requirements are in place as required prior to commencement of cannabis activities.

4.0 METHODS

4.1 BACKGROUND REVIEW

Public domain information was reviewed prior to field work, including the NRCS Web Soil Survey of Santa Barbara County, California, South Coastal Part (NRCS 2020), USGS Carpinteria CA 7.5-minute quadrangle map, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (USGS 2020), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (USFWS 2020), California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) (CDFW 2020), and weather data. The CNDDB query provided locations of special-status plant populations, sensitive natural communities, and special-status wildlife documented within a 5-mile radius of the Project Site.

4.2 FIELD METHODOLOGY

Biological field investigations included pedestrian surveys of the Project Site to facilitate mapping of primary vegetation types, document dominant plant species and wildlife, delineate of the limits of ESH, and conduct spring botanical surveys. Mapping of jurisdictional limits and the vegetation sampling points were performed in the field using an iPad tablet with ArcCollector and an EOS Arrow 100 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver. Table 2 provides a summary of survey types, dates, and field personnel.

Table 2 – Biological Surveys Conducted in 2019 and 2020

Type of Survey	Date	Field Personnel	Area Surveyed
Botanical Survey Wildlife Survey ESH/Vegetation Mapping	March 25, 2019	Jessica Peak John Storrer	Entire parcel & Arroyo Paredon Creek Corridor
Botanical Survey Wildlife Survey ESH/Vegetation Mapping CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment of Riparian Habitat	February 13, 2020	Jessica Peak Justine Cooper	Entire parcel & Arroyo Paredon Creek Corridor
Spring Botanical Survey	May 7, 2020	Jessica Peak	Arroyo Paredon Creek Corridor
Botanical Survey Wildlife Survey Restoration Area Mapping	July 10, 2020	Jessica Peak	South end of parcel

4.2.1 Botanical Surveys

The field investigations included mapping and documentation of primary vegetation types using CDFW-CNPS protocol for Vegetation Rapid Assessment, when applicable (Appendix B – CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment Forms). Descriptions of vegetation communities are adapted from *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MV-II) (Sawyer et al. 2009) and *A Manual of California Vegetation Online* (CNPS 2020a). Nomenclature for plant species follows *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (Baldwin et al. 2012). Vegetation Rapid Assessment was

performed at three locations, one in the riparian habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek, one in the cattail marsh habitat in the existing bioswale, and one in the coast live oak woodland along the unnamed tributary (Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities & Land Use Types). The ruderal/disturbed and active agriculture land use types in the Project Site were not sampled using the CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment Form because they do not fall within the MV-II classification system. Vegetation communities and land use types are discussed in detail in Section 5.2 below.

The field surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming period to detect and identify special-status plant species that have the potential to occur in the Project Site (e.g., umbrella larkspur, Santa Barbara honeysuckle, Nuttall's scrub oak, etc.). The surveys were performed by walking through the vegetated areas of the Project Site and Arroyo Paredon Creek to determine whether sensitive plants are present.

4.2.2 Wildlife Surveys

The evaluation of wildlife use of the property was made in part through field reconnaissance, but was also based on habitat suitability within the Project Site and known occurrence of various species in the Project vicinity. Wildlife species that were observed or detected via scat or vocalizations were recorded. Habitat conditions and current status of special-status wildlife species, were a particular focus of the wildlife surveys. Potential for nesting, roosting, or foraging by sensitive bird species and various raptors was also assessed.

4.2.3 Delineation of ESH and Jurisdictional Limits

The extent of ESH and jurisdictional limits were documented during field surveys. The ESH boundary (i.e., edge of riparian canopy) along Arroyo Paredon Creek was mapped using an iPad tablet with ArcCollector and an EOS Arrow 100 High Accuracy Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver (Figures 4 and 5).

4.2.3.1 Waters of the U.S.

Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary are adjacent to the Project Site and are depicted as intermittent blue-line streams in the USGS's National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2019) and National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (USFWS 2019).

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the limit of U.S. army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction in non-tidal waters extends to the OHWM and includes all adjacent wetlands. The OHWM is an element used to identify the lateral limits of non-wetland waters based on stream geomorphology and vegetation response to the dominant stream discharge (Lichvar and McColley 2008). The OHWM was not mapped as part of this Assessment; however, the OHWM is within the mapped riparian/oak woodland habitat, below TOB, and both Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary are assumed to be under USACE jurisdiction.

4.2.3.2 CDFW & County Streams

Pursuant to Section 1600 *et seq*. of the California Fish and Game code, the extent of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction was determined based on presence of a defined physical bed, bank, and channel. CDFW jurisdiction extends to the TOB or the edge of

riparian vegetation, whichever is further. County jurisdiction along streams corresponds to the extent of CDFW jurisdiction.

The extent of the riparian and oak woodland habitats along Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary were mapped using an iPad tablet with ArcCollector and an EOS Arrow 100 GPS receiver (Figure 4 – Sensitive Biological Resources).

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 HYDROLOGY

Arroyo Paredon Creek flows from east to west along southern boundary of the Project Site, continues under Via Real and Highway 101, and outlets to the Pacific Ocean approximately 0.3-mile downstream of the property. The perimeter fence along the parcel boundary parallels both the unnamed tributary, ranging from 2 to 5 feet from the TOB, and Arroyo Paredon Creek, ranging from 5 to 15 feet from the TOB.

The Carpinteria area received 16.47 inches rain during the 2019 water year (September 1 – August 31) (County 2019b). During the March 25, 2019 survey, surface flow in Arroyo Paredon Creek varied from 2 to 12 inches deep and 5 to 20 feet wide, with a few small pools. There was no water in Arroyo Paredon Creek or the ephemeral drainage during the February 13, 2020 field survey. In May 2020, there was minimal surface flow in the creek, averaging one inch in depth and 2 to 5 feet wide. The channel bottom consists of sand and cobble.

As mentioned previously, all irrigation water used in greenhouse cultivation is captured, purified, and reused in a closed loop system. The detention basin and bioswale in the southwest corner of the property were designed to retain stormwater onsite and reduce runoff discharge to Arroyo Paredon Creek and the ephemeral drainage. The stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces and avocado orchards is conveyed to the detention basin via culverts. When the stormwater volume exceeds the detention basin's storage capacity, overflow is conveyed via a high-volume culvert to the bioswale. The detention basin and bioswale slow stormwater flow and allow for sediment drop-out before discharging to Arroyo Paredon Creek.

Both the basin and the bioswale hold stormwater for extended periods of time and support hydrophytic vegetation (e.g., cattails). Therefore, these features meet the CCC and County one-parameter wetland definition. However, as mentioned above, these features were excavated wholly in upland habitat for the purposes of stormwater treatment and are not regulated by the USACE.

Arroyo Paredon Creek is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-designated critical habitat for southern California steelhead trout and tidewater goby and is under USACE, CDFW, RWQCB, CCC, and County jurisdiction. The portion of Arroyo Paredon Creek adjacent to the Project Site is regularly maintained (i.e., cleared of vegetation and debris) by the County Flood Control District.

5.2 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES & LAND USE TYPES

There are six vegetation communities/land use types present in and adjacent to the Project Site: western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland, coast live oak woodland, cattail marsh,

ornamental/landscaping plantings, active agriculture, and ruderal/disturbed. Vegetation communities were mapped based on field observations using aerial imagery. Descriptions of vegetation communities are provided below. Vegetation communities and land use types present in the Project Site are summarized in Table 3 and the distribution of these communities is illustrated in Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities & Land Use Types.

Table 3 – Summary of Vegetation Communities/Land Use Types in the Project Site

Vegetation Alliance/Land Use Type[1]	Vegetation Association[1]	Rarity Ranking[3]	Area in Project Site (acres)
Sensitive Vegetation Communities			
Western Sycamore-Arroyo Willow Woodland	*Platanus racemosa-Quercus agrifolia-Salix lasiolepis*	G3, S3	1.76
Coast Live Oak Woodland	*Quercus agrifolia-Salix lasiolepis*	G5, S4	1.72
Cattail Marsh	*Typha* (*latifolia, angustifolia*)	G5, S5	0.09
Other Land Use Types			
Ornamental Trees/Landscape Plantings[2]	N/A	N/A	2.16
Ruderal/Disturbed[2]	N/A	N/A	5.25
Active Agriculture[2]	N/A	N/A	14.66

[1] Vegetation Alliances and Associations follow *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MV-II) (Sawyer et al. 2009), where applicable.
[2] Not a recognized community in MV-II.
[3] Global/State rarity rankings follow the CDFW California Natural Communities List (CDFW 2019). Natural communities with ranks 1-3 are considered sensitive.
G1/S1 – Critically imperiled. At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
G2/S2 – Imperiled. At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
G3/S3 – Vulnerable. At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
G4/S4 – Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5/S5 – Demonstrably Secure. Common; widespread and abundant.

5.2.1 Western Sycamore-Arroyo Willow Woodland (*Platanus racemosa-Quercus agrifolia-Salix lasiolepis* Association)

The riparian habitat associated with Arroyo Paredon Creek consists of western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland. This vegetation community most closely aligns with the Western Sycamore Woodland Alliance and *Platanus racemosa-Quercus agrifolia-Salix lasiolepis* Association in MV-II (Sawyer et al. 2009) (Appendix B – CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment Form SP-02). This habitat type consists of a mixed tree canopy dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), with scattered coast live oaks along the upper banks. The understory is comprised primarily of non-native plant species including garden nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*), cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), tree

tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), smilo grass (*Stipa miliaceum*), and sticky snakeroot (*Ageratina adenophora*) (Appendix A – Site Photographs). Native riparian species observed in the understory included creek clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*), coast morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia* ssp. *cyclostegia*), canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesioides*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), California man-root (*Marah fabacea*), Douglas' nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*), and California figwort (*Scrophularia californica*). Western sycamore-coast live oak woodlands are designated as ESH by the County and CCC.

5.2.2 Coast Live Oak Woodland (*Quercus agrifolia- Salix lasiolepis* Association)

This community is dominated by coast live oak, with frequent occurrences of arroyo willow (CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment Field Form SP-03). The coast live oak woodland community extends northward along the unnamed tributary from the riparian corridor of Arroyo Paredon Creek (Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities & Land Use Types). The understory along the drainage consists of dense non-native vegetation, primarily garden nasturtium and cape ivy, with scattered natives such as poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), creek clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and California man-root (*Marah fabacea*) (Appendix A – Site Photographs). Coast live oak woodlands are designated as ESH by the County and CCC.

5.2.3 Cattail Marsh (*Typha* [*latifolia, angustifolia*] Association)

The bioswale between the detention basin and Arroyo Paredon Creek is dominated by cattail (*Typha latifolia*) (Appendix A – Site Photographs). The banks around the bioswale consist of ruderal/disturbance adapted species such as poison hemlock, nettle (*Urtica urens*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and smilo grass. There is one arroyo willow and one blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) associated with the bioswale (CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment Field Form SP-01).

The detention basin is primarily open water habitat, but cattail marsh vegetation has become established along the eastern and southern edges of the basin (see Site Photograph 5). Cattail marsh wetland habitats are designated as ESH by the County and CCC.

5.2.4 Ornamental Trees/Landscape Plantings

This vegetation type is not a recognized community in MV-II, as it consists of species not native to the region that have been planted and/or exotic species that typically don't occur in the natural landscape outside of urban areas.

Ornamental/landscaping plantings and a lawn are present around the existing residence and around parking areas in the northeastern portion of the property (Figure 3 – Vegetation Communities). Ornamental species observed include: Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), Mediterranean fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*), American century plant (*Agave americana*), myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), and bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea* sp.).

One myoporum tree and one Canary Island date palm have also become established between the detention basin and bioswale in the southwest corner of the Project Site.

5.2.5 Ruderal/Disturbed

Ruderal/disturbed habitat is present around the detention basin, along the access roads and edges of agricultural areas, and around existing structures/greenhouses and parking areas (Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities & Land Use Types). This vegetation type is not a recognized community in MV-II, as it consists of species not native to the region that have become naturalized and widespread in disturbed areas.

Ruderal (i.e., disturbance adapted) plant species including cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), annual grasses (*Avena* sp., *Bromus* sp., *Hordeum* sp.), sow thistles (*Sonchus oleraceus, S. asper*), poison hemlock, sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*), castor bean, and smilo grass.

5.2.6 Active Agriculture

The majority of the Project Site is used for agricultural purposes and is occupied by greenhouses, various accessory structures, and avocado orchards (Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities & Land Use Types). There is little vegetation in the agricultural areas and what is present consists of the ruderal species described above.

5.3 General Wildlife Habitat

The field survey enabled a characterization of habitat quality and assessment of potential for occurrence of special-status wildlife species within and surrounding the Project Site. Because the Project Site is currently used for agricultural purposes and contains structural features like greenhouses and buildings, it has limited habitat value for wildlife. These developed areas are regularly managed and maintained, which precludes use by most wildlife species.

During field surveys, wildlife was primarily observed or detected near the southern and eastern perimeters of the Project Site, at the detention basin, or within Arroyo Paredon Creek. Bird species observed include mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Lincoln's sparrow (*M. lincolnii*), American goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*), and common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Other wildlife observed/detected included western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), Baja California treefrogs (*Pseudacris hypochondriaca*) vocalizing in the creek, and numerous raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) tracks in the sediment deposits in the riparian corridor. No tadpoles were observed in the creek channel, detention basin, or bioswale.

Arroyo Paredon Creek functions as a dispersal and migration corridor for upland and aquatic wildlife. The continuous band of riparian habitat allows wildlife movement across a landscape that is fragmented by agricultural and urban development, and enables passage from upland to lowlands and facilitates genetic exchange within populations. Mature sycamore, willow, and oak trees along Arroyo Paredon Creek provide suitable nesting habitat for raptors and other bird species.

As mentioned above, Arroyo Paredon Creek is USFWS-designated critical habitat for southern California steelhead and tidewater goby. There is a documented occurrence of tidewater goby near the downstream of the Project Site, where the creek flows under Via Real (CNDDB 2020). Arroyo Paredon Creek could also support other sensitive semi-aquatic wildlife species (e.g., California

red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake), during periods of intermittent stream flow. Special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur are discussed in more detail in following the sections.

5.4 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND SENSITIVE HABITATS

Special-status species and habitats include plant and wildlife taxa, vegetation communities, or other unique biological features that are afforded special protection by local land use policies and/or state and federal regulations. Vegetation communities may warrant special status if they are of limited distribution, support protected plants and animals, have high wildlife value, or are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Special-status plant and animal species are those that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts or those that appear on various "watch lists" compiled by academic institutions, conservation organizations, and wildlife agencies. These include the CNDDB lists of "*Special Animals*" and "*Special Plants*" (CNDDB 2020), CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS 2020), "*California Bird Species of Special Concern*" (Shuford and Gardali 2008), "*Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California*" (Jennings and Hayes 1994), and "*Terrestrial Mammal Species of Special Concern in California*" (CDFG 1998).

Eleven (11) special-status plant species and fifteen (15) special-status wildlife species are documented (i.e., are tracked by the CNDDB) within a 5-mile radius of the Project Site. The likelihood for these special-status plant and wildlife species to occur within the habitats present in the Project Site was evaluated as part of this Revised Assessment.

Plant and wildlife species dependent on coastal salt marsh, beach, dune, or vernal pool communities (e.g., Coulter's saltbush, salt marsh bird's beak, Coulter's goldfields, western snowy plover, light-footed Ridgway's rail, Belding's savannah sparrow, sandy beach tiger beetle, globose dune beetle, and wandering (=saltmarsh) skipper) are excluded from consideration in Table 4 due to the lack of suitable habitat.

Table 4 lists special status plants and animals that have a reasonable possibility to occur in the Project Site based on habitat suitability and requirements, elevation and geographic range, soils, topography, surrounding land uses, and proximity of known occurrences in the CNDDB database to the Project Site. The likelihood for special-status species to occur within the property was assessed using information from the various listed sources and wildlife and botanical surveys. Narratives are provided for species for which there are land use planning and regulatory implications.

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Plants[1]				
Late-flowered mariposa lily *Calochortus fimbriatus*	CRPR 1B.3 G3, S3	Dry, open coastal woodland and chaparral. Elevation range: 0 – 3,000 feet. Blooming period: July – August.	No	There is no dry, open coast live oak woodland or chaparral habitat in the Project Site to support late-flowered mariposa lily. The closest documented location of this species is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the Project Site in sandstone substrate in chaparral habitat 0.5-mile northwest of Buell Reservoir. Late-flowered mariposa lily is not expected to occur in the Project Site.
Palmer's mariposa lily *Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*	CRPR 1B.2 G3, S2	Meadows, vernally moist places in yellow-pine forest and chaparral. Elevation range: 3,900 – 7,200 feet. Blooming period: May – July.	No	There is no suitable mesic meadow, pine forest, or chaparral habitat in the Project Site to support Palmer's mariposa lily. In addition, this species generally occur at much higher elevations. Palmer's mariposa lily is not expected to occur in the Project Site.
Umbrella larkspur *Delphinium umbraculorum*	CRPR 1B.3 G3, S3	Oak woodland and chaparral, prefers moist locations. Elevation range: 1,320 – 5,300 feet. Blooming period: April – June.	Yes	Although there is mesic woodland habitat adjacent to the Project Site along Arroyo Paredon Creek that could support umbrella larkspur, the riparian corridor is highly degraded and dominated by invasive, non-native species. This species would have been in bloom at the time of the May 7, 2020 survey and was not observed. Umbrella larkspur is not expected to occur in or adjacent to the Project Site.
Ojai fritillary *Fritillaria ojaiensis*	CRPR 1B.2 G2, S2	Occurs on rocky slopes and in river basins. Known from mesic broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, and lower montane coniferous habitats. Elevation range: 990 – 1,650 feet. Blooming period: February – May.	No	Although Ojai fritillary can occur along creek corridors, it is generally at much higher elevations. This species would have been in bloom during both the March 2019 and May 2020 field surveys and was not observed. Ojai fritillary is not expected to occur in or adjacent to the Project Site.

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Santa Barbara honeysuckle *Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*	CRPR 1B.2 G5, S2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Elevation range: 0 – 3,300 feet. Blooming period: April – May.	Yes	Although the riparian corridor adjacent to the Project Site contains western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland that could support Santa Barbara honeysuckle, this perennial species would have been detectable and/or in bloom during field surveys and was not observed. Santa Barbara honeysuckle does not occur in the Project Site.
White-veined monardella *Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*	CRPR 1B.3 G4, S3	Oak woodland and chaparral. Elevation range: 0 – 5,000 feet. Blooming period: May – October.	No	Oak woodland and chaparral suitable to support white-veined monardella are not present in or adjacent to the Project Site. This perennial species would have been in bloom during the May 7, 2020 survey and was not observed. White-veined monardella does not occur in the Project Site.
Nuttall's scrub oak *Quercus dumosa*	CRPR 1B.1 G3, S3	Generally sandy soils near the coast, sandstone, chaparral, coastal sage scrub. Elevation range: 0 – 600 feet. Blooming period: March – May.	No	Suitable scrub and chaparral habitats for Nuttall's scrub oak are not present in the Project Site. This perennial species would have been detectable during field surveys and was not observed. Nuttall's scrub oak does not occur in the Project Site.
Sonoran maiden fern *Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*	CRPR 2B.2 G5, S2	Meadow and seeps, found along streams and seepage areas. Elevation range: 160-1,800 feet. Blooming period: January – September.	Yes	There is suitable habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek to support Sonoran maiden fern. This perennial species would have been detectable during field surveys and was not observed. Sonoran maiden fern does not occur in the Project Site.
Invertebrates				

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus* (California overwintering population)	SA G4, S2	Overwintering sites (i.e., roosts) extend from Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico and are located in wind-protected tree groves (typically eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress), with nectar source and water nearby.	No	There are fifteen known monarch butterfly overwintering locations within five miles of the Project Site (CNDDB 2020). The closest occurrence is 0.6-mile to the west in a dense eucalyptus grove near Serena Park. The arroyo willow-western sycamore woodland associated with Arroyo Paredon Creek is not dense enough to provide an adequately wind-protected tree grove suitable for over-wintering aggregations. Monarch butterflies are not expected to use the habitat adjacent to the Project Site as an overwintering site.
Fish				
Tidewater goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*	FE, SSC G3, S3	Occurs in fresh to brackish water in coastal lagoons, bays, and lower reaches of coastal streams, up to a mile upstream from the ocean. Prefers vegetated pools of slow (but not stagnant) areas of streams. Spawning occurs on coarse sand substrates.	Yes	Arroyo Paredon Creek is USFWS-designated critical habitat for tidewater goby. Tidewater goby was documented in the lower reach of Arroyo Paredon Creek, just west of the Project Site, in 2001 (CNDDB 2020). When water is present, Arroyo Paredon Creek provides suitable habitat for tidewater goby.
Southern California steelhead DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	FE, SSC G5, S1	Coastal streams less than 8,000 feet in elevation.	Yes	Arroyo Paredon Creek is USFWS-designated critical habitat for the Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead. There has been one contemporary (post-1980) documented occurrence of steelhead in Arroyo Paredon Creek (Stoecker 2002). When water is present, Arroyo Paredon Creek provides suitable habitat for steelhead.

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Amphibians				
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	SC, SSC G3, S3	Rocky streams and rivers in forests, chaparral, and woodlands. Sometimes found in isolated pools, vegetated backwaters, and deep, shaded, spring-fed pools. Elevation range: sea level to 6,000 feet.	Yes	Arroyo Paredon Creek offers suitable habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog. The documented occurrence is from 1966, approximately 4.0 miles north of the Project Site in the Santa Ynez River, and is believed that foothill yellow-legged frog was extirpated from here in 1975-1978 (CNDDB 2020). Santa Barbara County is at the southern end of the range of foothill yellow-legged frog. This frog originally ranged from northern Oregon west of the Cascades south along the coast ranges to the San Gabriel Mountains, and south along the foothills of the western side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the edge of the Tehachapi Mountains (Stebbins 2003). No occurrences of this species have been recorded in Santa Barbara County since the mid-1970s (pers. comm. Paul Collins 2016). The species is not expected to occur in the Project Site.
California red-legged frog (CRLF) *Rana draytonii*	FT, SSC G2, S2	Uses a variety of aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats. Requires a pond, slow-flowing stream reach, or deep pool within a stream with vegetation or other material to which egg masses may be attached. Uses both riparian and upland habitats for foraging, shelter, cover. Will also use small mammal burrows and moist leaf litter as refugia.	Yes	There is one documented occurrence of CRLF in Arroyo Paredon Creek approximately 1.0-mile upstream of the Project Site (CNDDB 2020). The surface flow in Arroyo Paredon Creek varied from 2 to 12 inches deep and 5 to 20 feet wide, with limited small pools or vegetative cover that would support breeding habitat for CRLF. CRLF could occur within Arroyo Paredon Creek on a transitory basis.

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Reptiles				
Northern (silvery) legless lizard *Anniella pulchra*	SSC G3, S3	Inhabits moist soil in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and shrubs in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat. Can also be found under surface objects such as rocks, boards, driftwood, and logs.	No	Although northern legless lizard was documented near the Project Site in 1983 from historical aerials in a U.S. Forest Service database (CNDDB 2020), the dense understory vegetation of Arroyo Paredon Creek does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Northern legless lizard is not expected to occur in the Project Site.
Two-striped garter snake *Thamnophis hammondii*	SSC G4, S3	Generally found around pools, creeks, cattle tanks, and other water sources. Often in rocky areas in oak woodland, chaparral, brushland and coniferous forests.	Yes	During periods of intermittent stream flow, Arroyo Paredon Creek could support two-striped garter snake, but there are no records for this species in the creek. The closest documented occurrences are approximately 5 miles to the northwest of the Project Site in San Ysidro Creek (Peak pers, obs. 2019). The likelihood of occurrence of two-striped garter snake in the Project Site is considered low.
Birds				

Table 4 – Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species Occurrences Documented within the Vicinity of the Project Site

Common Name ***Scientific Name*** ***(Arranged alphabetically by scientific name)***	**Listing Status***	**Habitat Requirements/Habitat Affinity**	**Suitable Habitat Present in Project Site (Y/N)**	**Likelihood for Occurrence within the Project Site**
Least Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*	FE, SE G5, S2	Dense, willow-dominated riparian habitat with lush understory. Summer resident of Southern California low riparian in the vicinity of water or dry river bottoms.	No	The western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland associated with Arroyo Paredon Creek is not dense enough to provide suitable nesting habitat for Least Bell's vireo. The closest documented occurrence was in 1980, approximately 5 miles north of the Project Site on the Santa Ynez River (CNDDB 2020). Least Bell's vireo is not expected to occur in the Project Site.
Mammals				
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	SC, SSC, G3, S2	Found in a variety of habitats including coniferous forests and woodlands, deciduous riparian woodland, semi-desert and montane shrublands. Hibernates in mines or caves in the winter months. Roosts in a variety of features including limestone caves, lava tubes, and man-made structures.	Yes	Townsend's big-eared bat could utilize the riparian corridor of Arroyo Paredon Creek for foraging. The closest documented occurrence of this species is from near the Carpinteria Salt Marsh in 1941 (CNDDB 2020). The likelihood of occurrence of Townsend's big-eared bat outside of the creek corridor is considered low.

*Listing Status/ Rarity Ranking Notes:
Federal: FE – Federally listed Endangered
FT – Federally listed Threatened
FC – Federal Candidate Species
WL – USFWS Watch list
BCC – USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern
MTBA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act
State: SE – State listed Endangered

ST – State listed Threatened
SC – State Candidate Species
SR – State Rare Species
SA – State Special Animal
FP – CDFW Fully Protected Species
SSC – CDFW Species of Special Concern
WL – CDFW Watch List

CRPR: California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Rank
CBR – Considered but Rejected
1B – Rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere
2 – Rare, threatened, or endangered in CA but common elsewhere
4 – Limited distribution (Watch-list)
CBR – Considered but Rejected

CRPR Extensions
0.1 – Seriously endangered in California
0.2 – Fairly endangered in California
0.3 – Not very endangered in California

CNDDB Element Rankings

Global/State Rarity Ranking:
G1/S1 – Critically imperiled. At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
G2/S2 – Imperiled. At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
G3/S3 – Vulnerable. At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
G4/S4 – Apparently Secure. Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5/S5 – Demonstrably Secure. Common; widespread and abundant.

[1] – Unless otherwise noted, habitat, elevation, and blooming period for special-status plant species is from *The Jepson Manual, Online Edition* 2020 and CNPS 2020.

5.4.1 Special-status Plant Species

No special-status plant species were observed during 2019 and 2020 field surveys and no special-status plant species are expected to occur in the Project Site or the adjacent riparian corridor along Arroyo Paredon Creek. The field surveys were conducted in February, March, May, and July within the typical blooming season to detect/identify all of the special-status plant species that are known to occur in the Project vicinity.

5.4.2 Sensitive Vegetation Communities

There are three sensitive vegetation communities present in the Project Site that are designated as ESH by the County and CCC: western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland, coast live oak woodland, and cattail marsh habitat. These habitats are limited to the areas along the unnamed tributary, Arroyo Paredon Creek, and the bioswale/detention basin (Figure 5 – Sensitive Biological Resources).

5.4.3 Special-status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed in the Project Site or creek corridor during field surveys. However, Arroyo Paredon Creek is USACE-designated critical habitat for tidewater goby and Southern California steelhead and generally provides moderate to high value upland and aquatic wildlife habitat. In addition to tidewater goby and Southern California steelhead, three (3) other special-status wildlife have a low to moderate potential to occur in Arroyo Paredon Creek or adjacent habitat: California red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, and Townsend's big-eared bat. Sensitive wildlife species that were observed or have the potential to occur are discussed in detail below.

5.4.3.1 Tidewater Goby and Southern California Steelhead

As mentioned above, Arroyo Paredon Creek is USACE-designated critical habitat for tidewater goby and the Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead. Tidewater goby can be found up to a mile upstream from the ocean. Steelhead are anadromous, born in freshwater streams, and they migrate to the ocean and remain pelagic until returning to freshwater to spawn.

Tidewater goby was most recently documented in the lower reach of Arroyo Paredon Creek, under the Highway 101 bridge and downstream, in 2001 (CNDDB 2020). There has been one contemporary (post-1980) documented occurrence of steelhead in Arroyo Paredon Creek (Stoecker 2002). When water is present, Arroyo Paredon Creek provides suitable habitat for both tidewater goby and Southern California steelhead.

5.4.3.2 California Red-legged Frog

California red-legged frog (CRLF) typically occur in ponds, slow-flowing stream reaches, or deep pools within a stream with riparian or emergent vegetation. There is one documented occurrence of CRLF in Arroyo Paredon Creek, approximately 0.9-mile upstream of the Project Site (CNDDB 2020).

The surface flow in Arroyo Paredon Creek varied from 2 to 12 inches deep and 5 to 20 feet wide, with limited small pools or vegetative cover that would constitute breeding habitat for CRLF. Due to the lack of pools and short duration of the hydroperiod in the creek, CRLF breeding in the vicinity of the Project Site is considered unlikely. Upland CRLF dispersal and migration occur primarily under wet conditions during fall and winter. If CRLF utilize the habitat near the Project Site, it would likely be on a transient basis only and they would be expected to remain largely within the riparian habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek.

5.4.3.3 Two-Striped Garter Snake

Two-striped garter snakes are typically found in segments of streams and rivers sustaining prolonged surface flow or standing pools that afford cover and food resources. When water is present, Arroyo Paredon Creek provides habitat for two-striped garter snake. However, there are no pools near the Project Site and there are no documented occurrences of this species in Arroyo Paredon Creek. The closest occurrence of two-striped garter snake is in San Ysidro Creek, approximately 5 miles northwest of the Project Site (Peak pers. obs. 2019). Two-striped garter snake is unlikely to inhabit the degraded understory along the creek banks near the Project Site, but could occur in the creek during dispersal upstream/downstream.

5.4.3.4 Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Townsend's big-eared bat could utilize the riparian corridor of Arroyo Paredon Creek and the coast live oak woodland habitat for foraging and roosting. There is no suitable habitat for this species in the remainder of the Project Site.

5.5 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS AND ESH

Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary are considered ESH by the County and is regulated by the USACE, CDFW, RWQCB, and CCC. The County-prescribed setback (i.e., buffer area) from the edge of the western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland and coast live oak canopy (i.e., riparian vegetation), is 100 feet within the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District (CCC 2015). The cattail marsh habitat in the bioswale/detention basin is also designated as ESH by the County and CCC.

6.0 IMPACT DISCUSSION

The following impact discussion is based on existing conditions within the Project Site and comments from County Staff during conference calls that occurred on June 24 and July 1, 2020. The sections below describe the potential impacts of the proposed Project to biological resources. Consistent with the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County 2008) and the County-wide FEIR for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program (County 2017), the impacts on biological resources are considered significant if a proposed Project:

- Has a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any sensitive natural community or plant or wildlife species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

- Has 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.
- Interferes 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.
- Conflicts with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- Conflicts with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

6.1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Direct impacts from the Project will occur primarily in ruderal habitat or disturbed areas that already contain existing infrastructure. Removal of the portion of chain-link perimeter fence along Arroyo Paredon Creek and implementation of restoration will require work under the riparian tree canopy. All existing non-conforming structures in the ESH buffer will be removed as part of the Project. In addition, the dirt road within the ESH buffer in the southwestern side of the Project Site will also be removed.

Proposed Project features to remain in the ESH buffer along Arroyo Paredon Creek on the south side of the Project Site include a 4,870 square foot processing building, 378 linear feet of wildlife-friendly fencing (i.e., barb wire), 843 linear feet of the chain-link perimeter/security fence, the existing paved fire road, 2,683 square feet of the detention basin, and the Riparian Restoration Area (including the bioswale) (Figure 3 – Riparian Restoration Planting Plan).

Temporary/indirect impacts (e.g., noise, dust) to native habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek could result from removal of structures and restoration implementation in the Riparian Restoration Area. Project impacts are summarized in Table 6 below.

Table 6 – Summary of Project Impacts (Conversion of Existing Use)

Project Component	Habitat Affected	Total Area	Area to Remain in ESH Buffer	Type of Impact[1]
Demolition of Structures, Storage Area, Temporary Trailer, Shipping Container, and Water Tanks	Ruderal/Disturbed, Active Agriculture	6,205 sq. ft.	0	Temporary
Proposed Septic Improvements	Active Agriculture	1,127 sq. ft.	506 sq. ft.	Temporary
Installation of the detention basin/bioswale in 2009	Ruderal/Disturbed, Western Sycamore-Arroyo Willow Woodland	19,800 sq. ft. (7,500 sq. ft. of riparian canopy)[2]	2,683 sq. ft.[3]	Permanent
Removal of Perimeter Chain-link Fence along Arroyo Paredon Creek and Installation of Barb Wire Fence	Western Sycamore-Arroyo Willow Woodland, Ruderal/Disturbed	428 linear feet chain-link to be removed	378 linear feet barb wire; 843 linear feet chain-link (includes new security fence)	Temporary
Installation of New Security Fence	Ruderal/Disturbed	591 linear feet	197 linear feet	Temporary

Project Component	Habitat Affected	Total Area	Area to Remain in ESH Buffer	Type of Impact[1]
Removal of Dirt Access Road	Ruderal/Disturbed	4,607 sq. ft.	0	Temporary
Removal of Non-native/Invasive Plant Species and Planting in Riparian Restoration Area	Western Sycamore-Arroyo Willow Woodland, Cattail Marsh, Ruderal/Disturbed	22,503 sq. ft. (0.52-acre)	22,503 sq. ft. (0.52-acre)[3]	Temporary

[1] With implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measures, Project impacts would be considered less than significant.
[2] Previous impacts to riparian canopy were determined by aerial photograph interpretation and approved by the County.
[3] Area of the existing bioswale is included in the Riparian Restoration Area.

6.2 IMPACTS TO ESH AND ESH BUFFER

As described above, proposed features to remain in the ESH buffer include the existing Processing Building #2, the southern portion of the existing detention basin, the existing chain-link perimeter fence along the eastern boundary and southeastern corner of the property, a small portion of the sewer line and sump station for the new septic system, existing paved road for fire access, wildlife-friendly fencing, and the Riparian Restoration Area (including the existing bioswale/cattail marsh habitat).

Work within the ESH buffer from Arroyo Paredon Creek is limited to replacing the chain-link perimeter fence in the southwest corner with wildlife-friendly (i.e., barb wire) fencing, as requested by the County, implementation of 0.52-acre of riparian restoration, and annual mowing of non-native vegetation between the Riparian Restoration Area and Existing Greenhouse #7. No ground disturbance will occur within the prescribed setback from the creek as part of mowing; roots will be left in place to maintain soil stability. Removal of structures in the ESH buffer will occur in ruderal/disturbed habitat in the southeast corner of the Project Site and will not result in direct impacts to ESH.

The paved portion of the access road in the southeastern corner of the Project Site is proposed to remain in place to allow for fire department access. The security fencing will be relocated to isolate this road and the areas of operation (i.e., greenhouses) from the southwestern corner of the Project Site. The dirt access road in the ESH buffer in the southwestern corner of the Project Site will be removed as part of the Project and restored as part of the Riparian Restoration Area.

The perimeter and barb wire fencing will prevent intrusion from the operations areas into the riparian corridor of Arroyo Paredon Creek, the unnamed tributary, and the Riparian Restoration Area. Avoidance and minimization measures to prevent impacts to ESH and native trees during demolition are outlined below. Prior to the start of demolition, sediment controls (e.g., fiber rolls) will be installed along the base of the fencing that parallels the creek to prevent sediment from entering the riparian habitat. Fiber rolls will also be installed in the Riparian Restoration Area following non-native plant removal, to prevent impacts to the creek while native plants become established.

No adverse impacts to Arroyo Paredon Creek or the associated western sycamore-arroyo willow woodland are expected as a result of the proposed Project. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would reduce the potential for incidental impacts to sensitive wildlife (e.g.,

sedimentation) to a less than significant level. In addition, recommended measures would ensure that temporary/indirect impacts (i.e., noise, dust) to Arroyo Paredon Creek and riparian habitat are less than significant.

6.3 IMPACTS TO NATIVE TREES

No native trees will be removed as part of the proposed Project. Protective fencing will be installed around the coast live oak trees that are present on the perimeter fence line, prior to demolition and will remain until demolition is complete. With implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measures outlined below, no impacts to native trees are expected.

6.4 IMPACTS TO SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

No special-status plant species are present in or adjacent to the Project Site. No special-status plants were observed in the riparian habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek during field surveys and there is no suitable habitat in the remainder of the Project Site to support sensitive plant species.

6.5 IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

No impacts to wildlife corridors will occur as a result of the Project. Conversion to cannabis cultivation within permitted greenhouses will not result in an impediment or obstruction to wildlife movement. The proposed barb-wire fencing in the southwest corner of the Project Site will provide protection of ESH along Arroyo Paredon Creek and the Riparian Restoration Area from operations, while allowing for wildlife passage into the southwestern corner of the property. The relocated chain link security fence will prevent wildlife from entering the active operations area, where animals could be subject to injury or mortality (i.e., trampled, crushed, etc.). Measures to prevent impacts to wildlife, should they happen to occur in the cultivation area, are provided in the Wildlife Movement Plan (Appendix C).

6.6 IMPACTS TO SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE

Five special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur in Arroyo Paredon Creek or the associated riparian habitat. These species are discussed in detail below.

Proposed lighting adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek is 'dark sky' compliant (i.e., hooded, faced downward) and is motion activated to reduce impacts to wildlife using the creek corridor and adjacent habitats. The existing light shielding systems (blackout shades) will be maintained and utilized in all greenhouse structures at night to prevent light trespass.

Conversion to cannabis cultivation within permitted greenhouses will not result in impacts to special-status wildlife. Restoration of 0.3-acre of the ESH buffer and allowing wildlife access to the cattail marsh bioswale will improve the value and extent of native habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek.

6.6.1 Aquatic and Semi-aquatic Species

When water is present, Arroyo Paredon Creek provides suitable habitat for tidewater goby, Southern California steelhead, CRLF, and two-striped garter snake. Due to the intermittent nature of Arroyo Paredon Creek and lack of pools, the likelihood for sensitive fish species (i.e., tidewater goby, Southern California steelhead) near the Project Site is considered low. Because water used

in agricultural production on the Project Site is captured, purified, and reused, flow into the creek from the Project Site is limited to surface stormwater runoff, the majority of which is contained in the detention basin and bioswale. The proposed Project is not expected to result in impacts to fish.

The semi-aquatic CRLF and two-striped garter snake could migrate outside of the creek channel during wet conditions in the breeding season (i.e., fall and winter). However, the likelihood of these species occurring outside of the riparian corridor is considered low. The proposed Riparian Restoration Area, including the cattail marsh bioswale, will provide additional refuge habitat for CRLF and two-striped garter snake adjacent to the creek.

The Project does not impede wildlife passage within the creek corridor up- or downstream of the property and the proposed barb wire fence in the southwestern corner of the Project Site allows for wildlife movement into the western side of the property. The relocation of the perimeter fence line prevents wildlife from entering the southeast corner of the Project Site and active operations areas, where they could be incidentally harmed. With implementation of the recommended avoidance and minimization measures (e.g., fiber rolls), potential impacts to special-status fish and semi-aquatic amphibian and reptile species would be reduced to less than significant.

6.6.2 Raptors and Nesting Birds

The riparian habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek provides suitable nesting habitat for a wide variety of birds and nesting is to occur seasonally adjacent to the Project Site.

Indirect impacts to nesting birds could occur during the proposed demolition and habitat restoration. Impacts to nesting birds can be mitigated through implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures outlined below.

7.0 RECOMMENDED AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The following avoidance and minimization measures are recommended to reduce impacts to biological resources that might result from the Project. Recommended species-specific and sensitive habitat protection measures are listed first, followed by general construction measures and standard Best Management Practices (BMPs).

7.1 SPECIES-SPECIFIC AND ESH AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

- A worker environmental awareness pamphlet will be prepared and available on-site for all employees (including site supervisors, equipment operators, and laborers). The pamphlet will emphasize the presence of special-status species within Arroyo Paredon Creek (e.g., steelhead, tidewater goby, CRLF, two-striped garter snake), identification of those species, their habitat requirements, applicable regulatory policies and provisions regarding their protection, measures being implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts, and penalties for noncompliance. The pamphlet will also emphasize that if listed species are observed within or near the cultivation area, work will be suspended, the species are not to be touched or moved, and the CDFW and USFWS should be notified immediately.
- If the demolition or restoration is implemented during the bird nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a County-approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey of the areas adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek within 7 days of construction commencement (i.e.,

mobilization, staging, vegetation clearing, or demolition) to avoid impacts to nesting raptors and other birds. Surveys shall be conducted along the length of the creek adjacent to the Project Site and in the Riparian Restoration Area. If breeding birds with active nests are found, a County-approved biologist shall oversee the establishment of a buffer (prescriptively 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors) around the nest. No activities will be allowed within the buffer(s) until the young have fledged from the nest or the nest fails.

- Prior to demolition and non-native plant removal in the Riparian Restoration Area, fiber rolls shall be installed along the fence lines, between work areas and the riparian habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek, to prevent impacts to ESH and special-status species that have the potential to occur in or adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek.
- Prior to planting within the Riparian Restoration Area, site preparation should include removal of non-native and invasive plant species. A qualified biologist should be present to oversee site preparation and non-native plant removal in the Riparian Restoration Area. Non-native and invasive plant species should be removed from the Riparian Restoration Area on a regular basis for 5 years to ensure natives become established.
- Prior to demolition, protective fencing shall be installed around coast live oak trees that are present in within the perimeter fence line.
- Measures provided in the Wildlife Movement Plan shall be implemented to ensure there are no impacts to wildlife traversing the southwestern portion property.
- Oak trees, and other native tree species, should be protected consistent with County policies and guidelines. No grading or cultivation should occur within 6 feet of the dripline of native trees. If incidental damage occurs to native trees (e.g., removal, broken limbs, impacts to critical root zones) the trees should be examined by a County-approved arborist or biologist to determine whether compensatory measures are necessary.

7.2 General Construction Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- All staged supplies, temporary storage trailers, etc. should maintain a minimum 100-foot setback from the ESH boundary of Arroyo Paredon Creek, except where allowed on legal non-conforming paved areas that are proposed to remain.
- Precautions shall be taken to prevent sediment transport into Arroyo Paredon Creek and downstream locations. Erosion control measures (e.g., fiber rolls, etc.) shall be used throughout all phases of demolition and restoration where sediment runoff from exposed areas could enter the creek. All erosion control materials shall be free from plastic to prevent entanglement of wildlife. Temporary BMPs (such as protective fencing, silt fencing, and fiber rolls) must be maintained regularly to ensure effectiveness. BMPs shall be removed following completion of demolition and implementation of the Riparian Restoration Planting Plan.
- Any herbicide use within the Riparian Restoration Area shall not be conducted within 72 hours of a predicted rain event. Only herbicides suitable for use near aquatic environments, such as *Aquamaster* and/or *Rodeo* shall be used. Herbicide application will be performed using a hand-held or backpack sprayer, under the supervision of a licensed applicator.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Conversion to cannabis cultivation in existing greenhouses will not result in significant, adverse effects to plants, wildlife, or sensitive vegetation. The existing perimeter fence and proposed barb wire fence provide protection from human intrusion into native habitat along Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary. If future agricultural operations are confined to areas currently used for such purposes, no native habitat would be disturbed and therefore, there would be no need for a Habitat Protection Plan. Per the recommended avoidance and minimization measures, coast live oak trees within the perimeter fence line will be protected prior to demolition, consistent with County policies.

Erosion/sedimentation/stormwater impacts to Arroyo Paredon Creek are not anticipated due to the detention basin, and DASP-required implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of BMPs in consultation with the RWQCB. In addition, erosion controls (i.e., fiber rolls) are proposed to be installed between work areas and Arroyo Paredon Creek prior to demolition and restoration activities as part of avoidance and minimization measures.

Aquatic and semi-aquatic special-status wildlife species that are present or have the potential to occur in Arroyo Paredon Creek (i.e., Southern California steelhead, tidewater goby, CRLF, and two-striped garter snake) are not expected to occur in the operations area, with the exception of a possible transient CRLF during dispersal/migration. Recommended avoidance and minimization measures to reduce the likelihood of impacts to wildlife have been included in this Revised Assessment and the Wildlife Movement Plan (Appendix C).

Proposed riparian habitat restoration will improve the habitat value for birds and native pollinators along Arroyo Paredon Creek, stabilize soils along the creek bank, provide connectivity between the native cattail marsh in the bioswale and the riparian corridor, and decrease sedimentation to the creek from stormwater runoff.

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FIGURES

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Terra Solutions 777 Mutsuhito Avenue San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401 (805) 782-0969	Storrer Environmental Services 2565 Puesta del Sol #3 Santa Barbara, CA. 93105 (805) 682-2065 www.storrerenvironmental.com	**Site Vicinity Map** **Revised Biological Resources Assessment** **Autumn Brands, LLC & Ocean Farms, LLC** **Cannabis Cultivation Project** **3615 Foothill Road Carpinteria, CA 93013**	**Figure 1**	January 13, 2021

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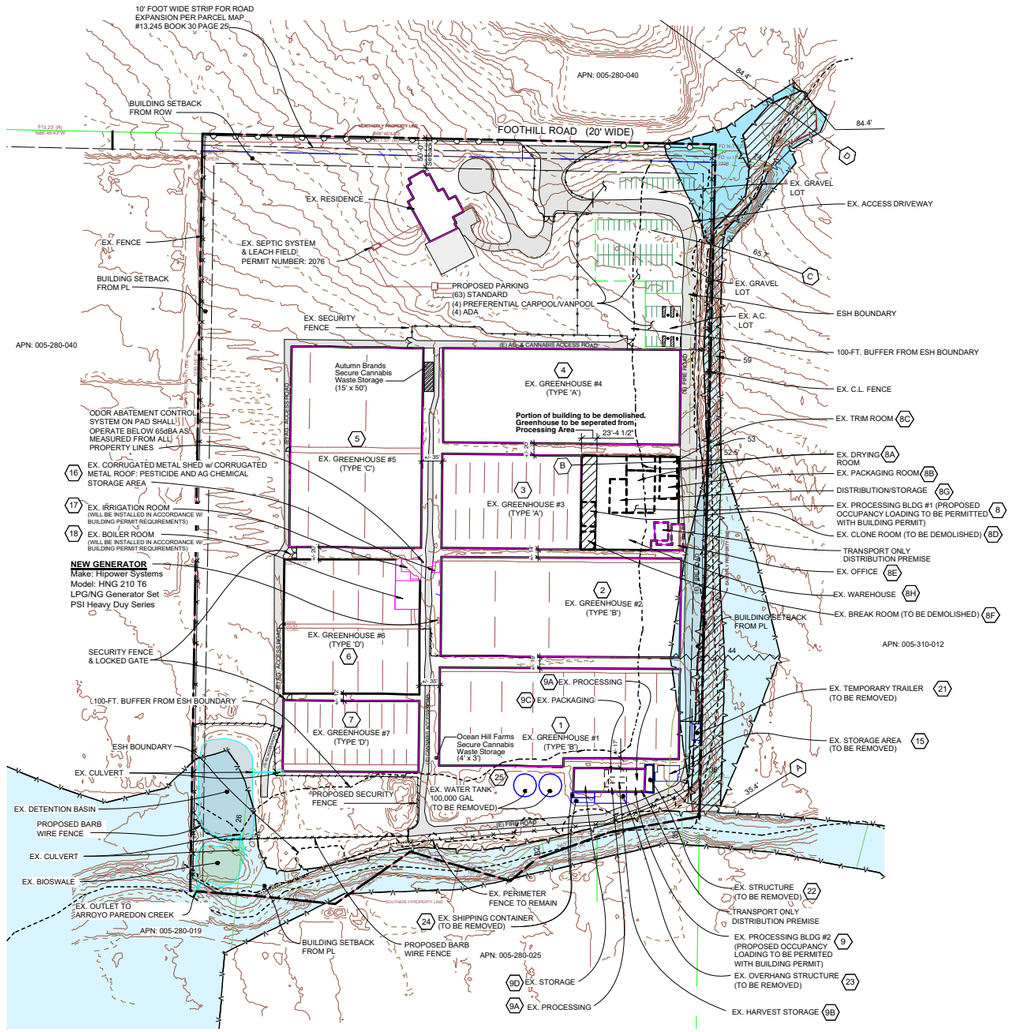


SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

SCALE: 1"=100'

0' 100' 200' 300'

Legend

- Property line
- Easements
- Ex. Perimeter Fence
- Existing Security Fence (Wood)
- Proposed Security Fence (Metal Chainlink)
- Ex. Street Frontage Fence
- Proposed Barb Wire Fence
- Ex. Perimeter Fence to be removed
- Flood zone 'ae' border
- 26 — Base flood elevation
- Regulatory floodway
- 0.2% annual chance flood hazard, areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile
- A — 354' — Cross sections with 1% annual chance & water surface elevation

Structure Statistics

#	Structure Type	QUANTITY	S.F. EA.	TOTAL S.F.
1	Greenhouse #1	1	65,065	65,065
2	Greenhouse #2	1	68,298	68,298
3	Greenhouse #3	1	37,681	37,681
4	Greenhouse #4	1	64,511	64,511
5	Greenhouse #5	1	76,035	76,035
6	Greenhouse #6	1	49,200	49,200
7	Greenhouse #7	1	27,682	27,682
8	Processing Building #1	1	23,072	23,072
8A	Drying Room	1	4610	
8B	Packaging Room	1	1,084	
8C	Trim Room	1	965	
8D	Clone Room to be demolished	1	N/A	
8E	Office	1	1,995	
8F	Break Room to be demolished	1	N/A	
8G	Storage Area	1	1,525	
8H	Warehouse	1	12,893	
9	Processing Building #2	1	4,870	4,870
9A	**Processing Area**	1	1,694	
9B	Harvest Storage	1	295	
9C	Packaging	1	451	
9D	Storage	1	2,430	
16	Pesticide and AG Checmical Storage	1	100	100
TOTAL				416,514

Demolition Statistics

#	Structure Type	QUANTITY	S.F. EA.	TOTAL S.F.
15	Storage Area	1	981	981
21	Temporary Trailer	1	372	372
22	Structure	1	697	697
23	Overhang Structure	1	1,069	1,069
24	Shipping Container	2	320	640
25	Water Tank 100,000 Gal	2	1,223	2,446
TOTAL				6,205

Utility Providers

Water - Carpinteria Valley Water District
Gas - Southern California Gas Company
Electric - Southern California Edison Company
Cable Communications - Cox Commuications
Telephone Communications - Verizon California Inc.

Site Statistics

Parcel Size: 1,070,320 S.f./24.57 Ac. Gross
1,044,225 S.f./23.97 Ac. Net

Avg. Slope: 8%

Flood Zone: 'AE'

Surveyor's Notes

(1) Basis Of Coordinates Nad83 (1992 Per Cal-trans Post Mile 15.04 And 15.42
(2) Vertical Datum Is Navd88 Per Cal-trans Post Mile 15.04 Elevation = 88.58
(3) Boundary Shown Is Per Parcel Map Book 30 Page 27 Rotated To Nad83 (r)
(4) Easements Shown Per Official Record
Survey Provided By Waters Cardenas Land Surveying, Inc. Dated May 30, 2018.

Topographical Notes

Topographical contour data is based on 2018 County of Santa Barbara Flood Control Lidar information.

Propoerty Information

Project Address: 3615 Foothill Road, Carpinteria, Ca 93013
Assessors Parcel No.: 005-280-041
Existing Land Use Zone: AG-I-20
Site Area: 24.03 acres (1,046,746.8 s.f.)

Directory

Owner: **Brand Partnership**
3615 Foothill Road, Caprinteria, Ca 93013
805.566.4226

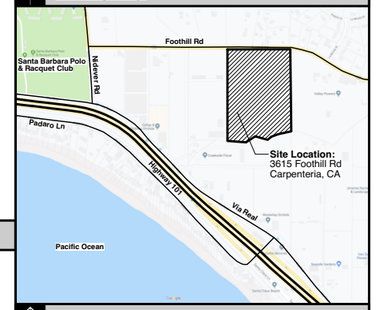
Operator: **Autumn Brands LLC**
3615 Foothill Road, Caprinteria, Ca 93013
805.566.4226

Operator: **Ocean Hill Farms LLC**
3615 Foothill Road, Caprinteria, Ca 93013
714.721.2666

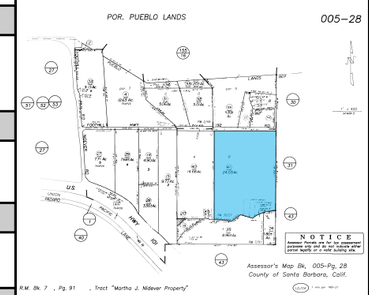
Architect: **Hamrick Associates Inc. (HAI),** Warren Hamrick
1609 Costa Brava, Shell Beach, CA 93449
805.773.9377

Sheet Index

Vicinity Map



Parcel Map



Autumn Brands LLC & Ocean Hill Farms LLC Mixed Light Cannabis Cultivation

3615 Foothill Road, California

Date: 01.13.21

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Figure 2a

January 13, 2021

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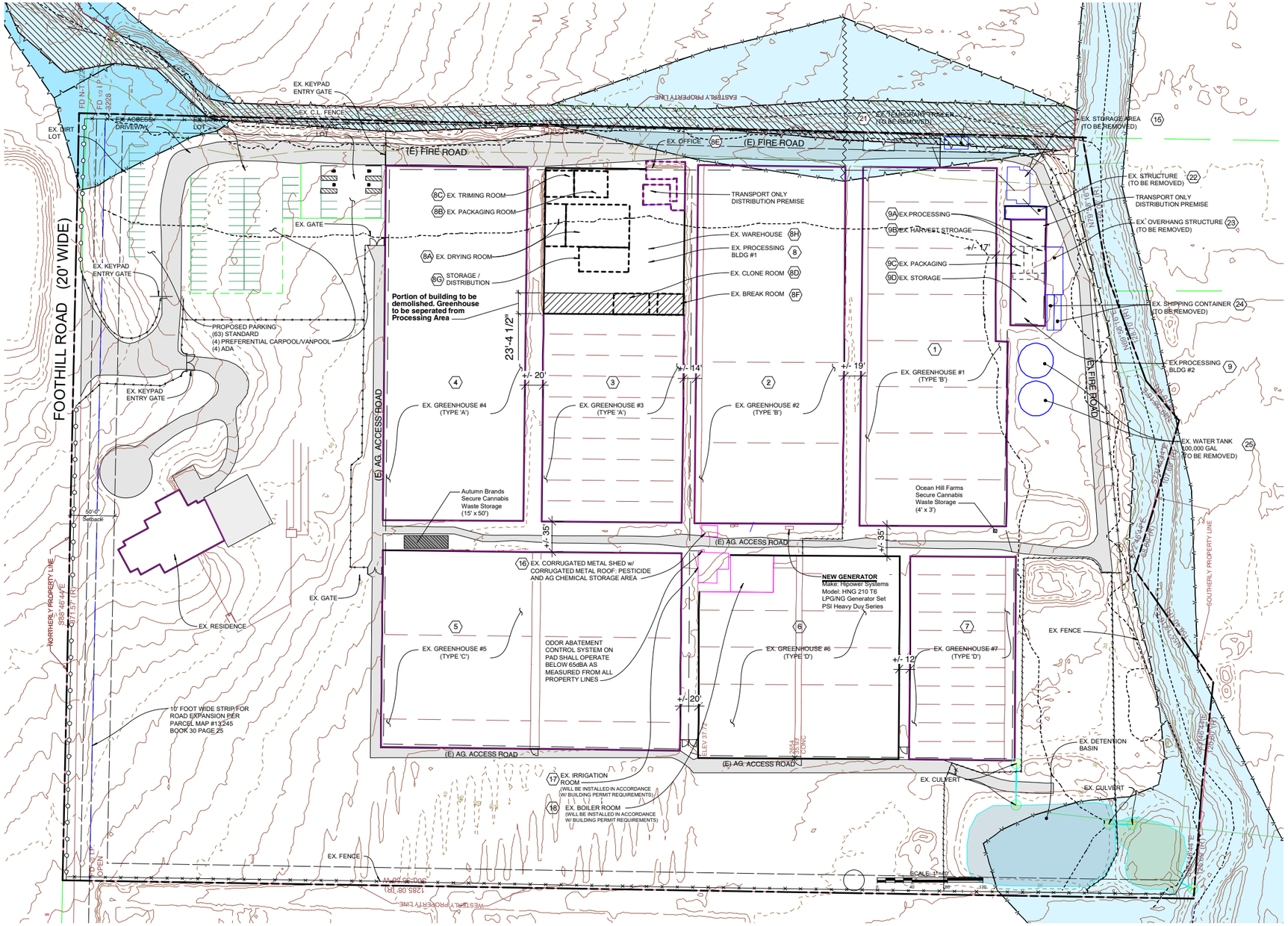

SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

Autumn Brands LLC & Ocean Hill Farms LLC
Mixed Light Cannabis Cultivation

3615 Foothill Road, California

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Figure 2b

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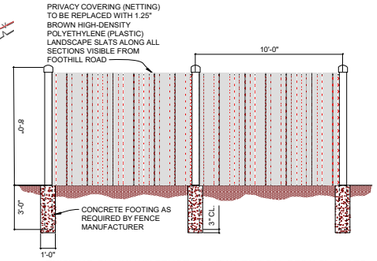
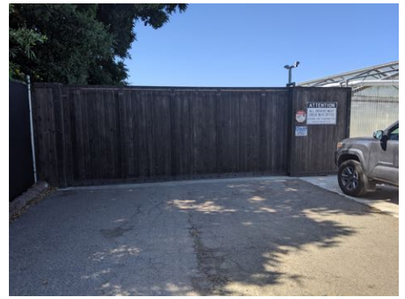
FENCING AND SECURITY PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"



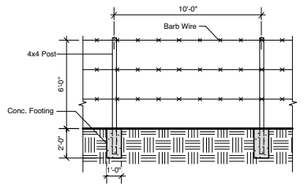
EXISTING CHAINLINK FENCE W/ NEW VERTICAL PRIVACY SLATS



A VIEW OF LOCKED KEYPAD ENTRY GATE LOOKING SOUTH

(E) FENCE W/ PRIVACY NETTING

B VIEW OF FENCING ALONG EASTERLY PROPERTY LINE



PROPOSED BARB WIRE FENCE DETAIL

C VIEW OF FENCING ALONG SOUTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE

GFC IBP SERIES ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETS
PROPOSED SECUIRTY CAMERA

LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- SECURITY FENCE: (E) CHAINLINK W/ PRIVACY NETTING
- SECURITY FENCE: (E) CHAINLINK W/ (N) VERT. SLATS
- PROPOSED BARB WIRE FENCE
- EX. PERIMETER FENCE TO BE REMOVED
- SECURITY FENCE: (E) WOOD FENCE
- SECURITY FENCE: (N) METAL CHAINLINK FENCE
- PROPOSED SECURITY CAMERA (DETAIL THIS SHEET OR APPROVED EQUAL)

SCALE: 1"=50'
0' 50' 100' 150'

Autumn Brands LLC & Ocean Hill Farms LLC
Mixed Light Cannabis Cultivation

3615 Foothill Road, California

Date: 01.13.21

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Figure 2c

January 13, 2021

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RESTORATION PLANT LEGEND

SYMBOL N°	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	QUANTITY	SIZE	SPACING	COMMENTS (H x W, sun exposure)
13	ARTEMISIA CALIFORNICA	CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH	20	1 GALLON	4' O.C.	1'-8' x 4', FULL SUN
14	ARTEMISIA DOUGLASIANA	MUGWORT	25	1 GALLON	4' O.C.	8' x 4', FULL SUN TO PART SHADE
6	BACCHARIS SALICIFOLIA	MULEFAT	33	CUTTINGS OR 1 GAL.	3' OR 6' O.C. (SEE PLAN)	6'-12' x 3'-9', FULL SUN
9	CLEMATIS LIGUSTICIFOLIA	CREEK CLEMATIS	10	1 GALLON	8' O.C.	1'-30' x 2'-4', PART TO FULL SHADE
15	ELYMUS TRITICOIDES	ALKALI RYE	126	4" POT or 1 GAL.	3' O.C.	2'-4' H, PART SHADE
12	ENCELIA CALIFORNICA	BUSH SUNFLOWER	32	1 GALLON	5' O.C.	1.6'-5' x 3'-7', FULL SUN TO PART SHADE
17	ERIOGONUM FASCICULATUM	CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT	22	1 GALLON	4' O.C.	1'-6.6' x 3', FULL SUN
3	HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA	TOYON	17	1 or 5 GALLON	10' O.C.	6'-30' x 10'-15', FULL SUN TO PART SHADE
5	MALOSMA LAURINA	LAUREL SUMAC	14	1 GALLON	10' O.C.	10'-20' x 20', FULL SUN
1	PLATANUS RACEMOSA	WESTERN SYCAMORE	5	5 GALLON	20' O.C.	20'-115' x 50', FULL SUN
2	QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA	COAST LIVE OAK	4	1 or 5 GALLON	20' O.C.	25'-82' x 15'-35', FULL SUN TO PART SHADE
8	ROSA CALIFORNICA	CALIFORNIA ROSE	16	1 GALLON	8' O.C.	6'-10' x 10', FULL SUN TO FULL SHADE
11	RUBUS URSINUS	CALIFORNIA BLACKBERRY	21	1 GALLON	5' O.C.	2'-6' x 6', FULL SUN TO FULL SHADE
7	SALIX LASIOLEPIS	ARROYO WILLOW	39	CUTTINGS OR 1 GAL.	3' O.C.	7'-35' x 15', FULL SUN
18	SALVIA SPATHACEA	HUMMINGBIRD SAGE	29	1 GALLON	3' O.C.	1'-3' x 3', PART-FULL SHADE
4	SAMBUCUS NIGRA SSP. CAERULEA	BLUE ELDERBERRY	16	1 GALLON	10' O.C.	20'-30' x 20'-30', FULL SUN TO FULL SHADE
16	STIPA (NASSELLA) PULCHRA	PURPLE NEEDLEGRASS	70	4" POT or 1 GAL.	3' O.C.	3' x 1.5', FULL SUN
10	VENEGASIA CARPESIOIDES	CANYON SUNFLOWER	44	1 GALLON	5' O.C.	5' H, FULL SUN TO FULL SHADE

RESTORATION PLAN NOTES:

1. THE MATURE PLANT SIZES AND SUN EXPOSURE PREFERENCES SPECIFIED IN THE COMMENTS SECTION OF THE RESTORATION PLANT LEGEND (ABOVE) ARE ACCORDING TO CALSCAPE.ORG.
2. ALL PLANTS SHALL BE PROPAGATED FROM MATERIAL (SEED OR CUTTINGS) COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SOUTH COAST WATERSHEDS FROM GAVIOTA TO RINCON, AND FROM THE ARROYO PAREDON CREEK WATERSHEDS WHERE AVAILABLE. NO SUBSTITUTES SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE PROJECT BIOLOGIST. RECOMMENDED LOCAL NATIVE PLANT GROWERS: SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDENS (SBBG.ORG), SANTA BARBARA NATIVES (SBNATIVES.COM), MANZANITA NURSERY (MANZANITANURSERY.COM).

RESTORATION PLAN SPECIFICATIONS:

SITE PREPARATION

ONE MYOPORUM TREE AND ONE CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM, AS WELL AS NON-NATIVE HERBACEOUS SPECIES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE RESTORATION AREA MUST BE REMOVED TO FACILITATE NATIVE HABITAT RESTORATION. INITIAL WEED ABATEMENT TREATMENTS WILL INCLUDE REMOVAL OF ALL NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES (E.G., CASTOR BEAN, POISON HEMLOCK, SMILO GRASS, FENNEL, ETC.) FROM THE RESTORATION AREA. WEED ABATEMENT WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH OVERSITE FROM THE RESTORATION MANAGER AND WILL INVOLVE MANUAL/MECHANICAL TREATMENTS (E.G., HAND PULLING, WEED WHIPPING). ALL DEAD WEED MATERIAL AND DEBRIS FROM TREE REMOVAL SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE RESTORATION AREAS AND DISPOSED OF APPROPRIATELY.

EROSION/SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF NON-NATIVE VEGETATION, EROSION CONTROL MATERIALS (E.G., FIBER ROLLS) SHALL BE INSTALLED BETWEEN THE RESTORATION AREA AND ARROYO PAREDON CREEK TO PREVENT SEDIMENT IMPACTS TO THE CREEK UNTIL NATIVE VEGETATION IS ESTABLISHED. EROSION CONTROLS SHOULD BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO RESTORATION PLANTING.

CUTTING INSTALLATION

CUTTINGS SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM NEARBY SOURCE POPULATIONS, IF POSSIBLE. CUTTINGS SHOULD BE PLANTED 2 FEET ON CENTER, ALONG SLOPES OF THE BIOSWALE AND THE OUTLET TO ARROYO PAREDON CREEK. ARROYO WILLOW AND MULEFAT CUTTINGS SHOULD BE A MINIMUM OF 18 INCHES LONG. ARROYO WILLOW CUTTINGS SHOULD BE 0.5 TO 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AT THE THICK END. CUTTINGS SHOULD BE PRUNED OF ALL LEAVES AND BRANCHES. THE THICK, LOWER END OF THE STEMS SHOULD BE CUT FLAT, WHILE THE UPPER END OF THE STEM CAN BE CUT AT A SLIGHT ANGLE. STEMS SHOULD BE SOAKED IN WATER WITH ROOTING HORMONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING CUT, AND PLANTED WITHIN 24 HOURS. CUTTINGS SHOULD BE PLANTED TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 12 INCHES, OR APPROXIMATELY 2/3 OF THE LENGTH OF THE STEM.

CONTAINER PLANT INSTALLATION

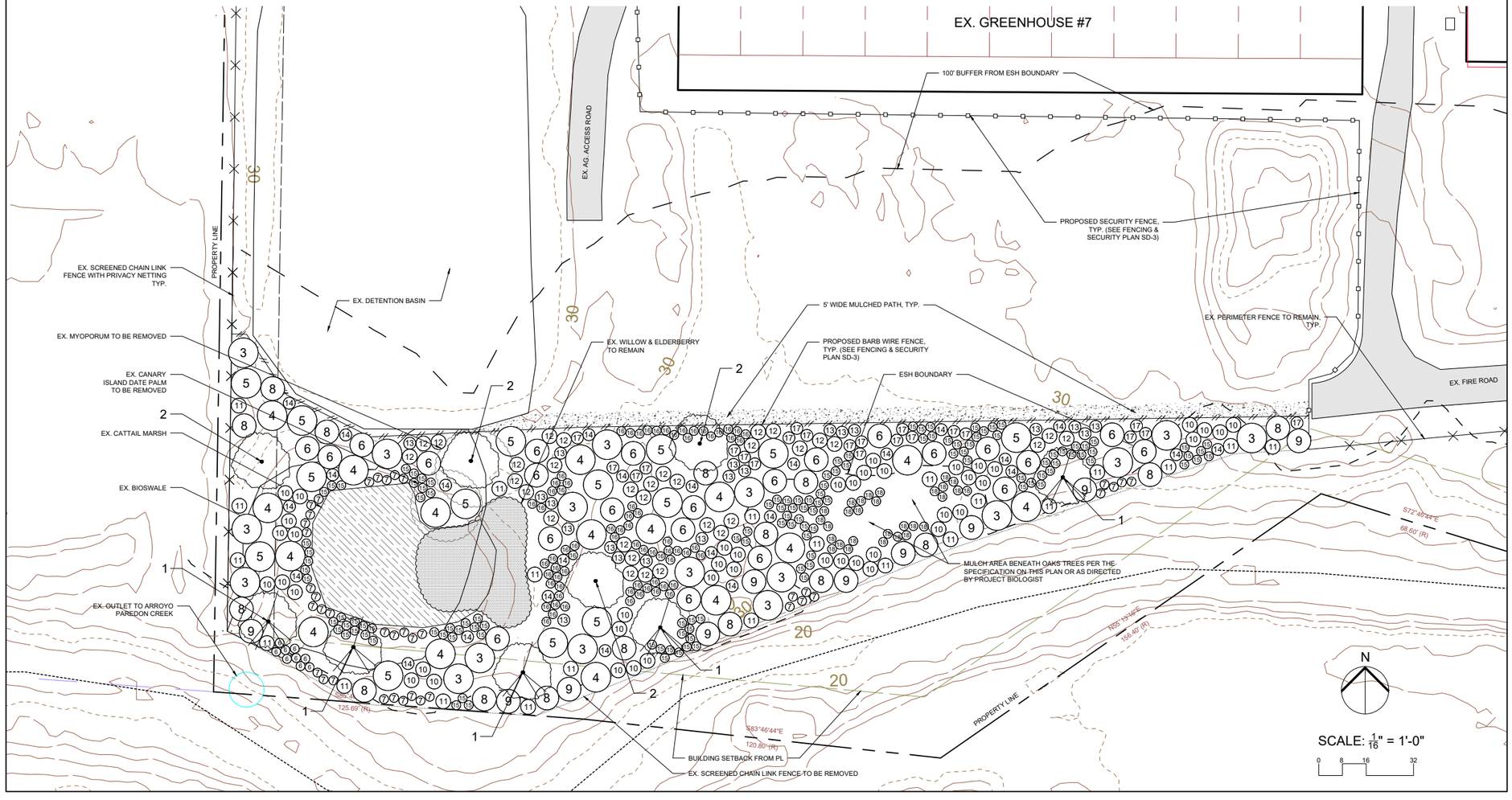
CONTAINER PLANTS AND CUTTINGS SHOULD BE PLANTED IN FALL/EARLY WINTER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WINTER RAINFALL. ALL CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS SHOULD BE PLACED BY HAND IN A PLANTING HOLE THAT IS AT LEAST TWO TIMES THE DIAMETER AND 4 TO 6 INCHES DEEPER THAN THE CONTAINER THE PLANT WAS GROWN IN. TO AID IN PLANT ESTABLISHMENT, A SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER (E.G., BEST-PAKS CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILIZER PLANTER PACKETS) SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE BOTTOM OF EACH PLANTING HOLE. IF SOIL IS NOT DAMP WHEN PLANTING, THE PLANTING HOLES SHOULD BE PRE-SOAKED. WHEN BACKFILLING THE PLANTING HOLE, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MAKE SURE THAT SOIL AROUND THE BASE OF THE PLANT IS AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME HEIGHT OR SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE SOIL ADJACENT TO THE PLANTING HOLE. SOIL SHOULD BE PACKED AROUND EACH NEWLY INSTALLED PLANT AND ALL PLANTS SHOULD BE WATERED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INSTALLATION. FOLLOWING INSTALLATION OF CONTAINER PLANTS, A 4- TO 6-INCH LAYER OF MULCH SHOULD BE APPLIED AROUND THE BASE OF EACH PLANT TO A RADIUS OF 3 FEET. MULCH SHOULD BE PLACED A MINIMUM OF 3 INCHES FROM THE PLANT STEM TO AVOID THE RISK OF MOISTURE OR FUNGUS DAMAGE. MULCH USED IN THE RESTORATION AREAS SHOULD BE FREE OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES SEED AND PLANT MATERIAL, INCLUDING EUCALYPTUS BARK.

IRRIGATION

A TEMPORARY DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM WILL BE USED DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND YEARS TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL GERMINATION AND PLANT ESTABLISHMENT. FREQUENCY OF IRRIGATION WILL DEPEND ON WATER AVAILABILITY, CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, AND SOIL MOISTURE, AND MAY BE ADJUSTED AS NEEDED BY THE RESTORATION MANAGER OR LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR.

MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN THE RESTORATION AREA SHALL EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE INSTALLATION COMPLETION AND WILL INCLUDE WEED ERADICATION, IRRIGATION, TRASH REMOVAL, SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING OR PLANT REPLACEMENT (AS NECESSARY), AND MAINTENANCE OF EROSION CONTROL MATERIALS. CARE SHALL BE TAKEN TO AVOID EXISTING NATIVE PLANTS IN AND ALONG THE BANKS OF ARROYO PAREDON CREEK AND THE BIOSWALE.



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PROJECT
AUTUMN BRANDS LLC &
OCEAN HILL FARMS LLC
3615 FOOTHILL ROAD
CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA 93013
APN 005260-041

SHEET TITLE
RIPARIAN RESTORATION PLANTING PLAN

ISSUE DATE
PRINTED 1.13.21

DRAWN: SM
CHECKED: SM

SHEET No.
L3.0
OF
PROJECT No. 19032

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Riparian Restoration Planting Plan
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Figure 3

January 13, 2021

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Vegetation Communities
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Figure 4

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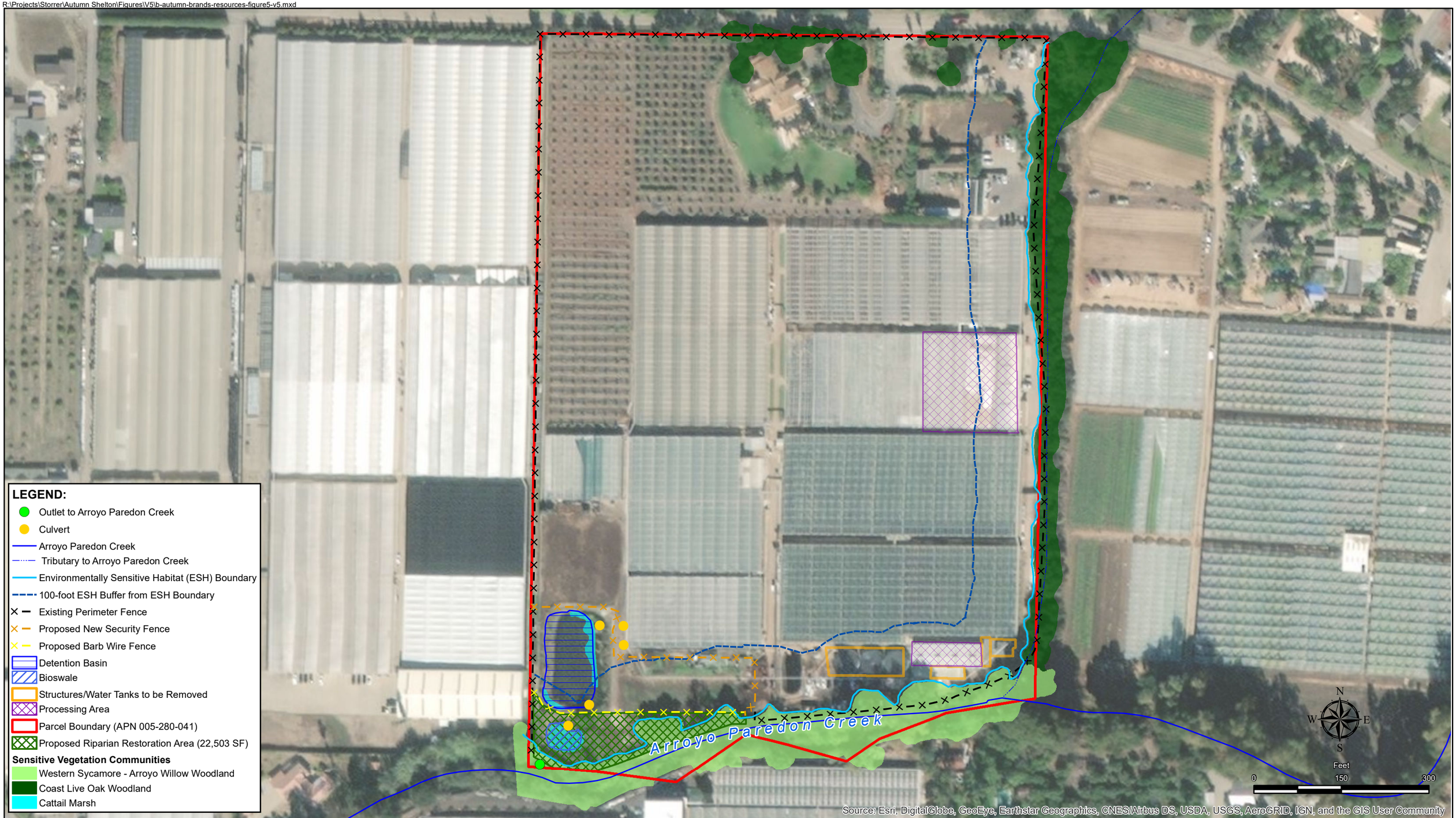

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Sensitive Biological Resources
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Cannabis Cultivation Project
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Figure 5

January 13, 2021

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Access road and coast live oak woodland along the ephemeral drainage on the eastern Project Site boundary (Aspect: South). Photo taken: March 25, 2019.

Photo 2: Dense garden nasturtium on banks of the ephemeral drainage (Aspect: North). Photo taken: March 25, 2019.

Photo 3: Southern portion of the Project Site and existing access road with Arroyo Paredon Creek corridor on the right (Aspect: East). Photo taken: February 13, 2020.

Photo 4: Water tanks proposed for removal along the southern boundary (Aspect: East). Photo taken: February 13, 2020.

Photo 5: Detention basin in southwest corner of Project Site (Aspect: South). Photo taken: February 13, 2020.

Photo 6: Cattail marsh bioswale adjacent to Arroyo Paredon Creek (Aspect: Northeast). Palm and Myoporum trees will be removed as part of restoration. Photo taken: February 13, 2020.

Photo 7: Existing dirt access road adjacent to the Riparian Restoration Area and detention basin (Aspect: North). Photo taken: February 13, 2020.

Photo 8: Avocado orchard on the western side of the Project Site (Aspect: North). Photo taken: March 25, 2019.

Photo 9: Drone photograph of the southwest corner of Project Site, bioswale, detention basin, and approximate Riparian Restoration Area (red outline). Photo taken July 7, 2020.

Photo 10: Arroyo Paredon Creek corridor at Via Real (Aspect: East). Photo taken: March 25, 2019

Photo 11: Giant reed infestation along Arroyo Paredon Creek adjacent to the Project Site (Aspect: East). Photo taken March 13, 2020.

Photo 12: Dense understory vegetation, comprised of non-native species, along the banks of Arroyo Paredon Creek (Aspect: South). Photo taken May 7, 2020.

APPENDIX B

CNPS VEGETATION RAPID ASSESSMENT FORMS

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form

(Revised April 28, 2016)

For Office Use:	Final database #:	Final vegetation type:	Alliance Association

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION — circle: **Relevé** or **RA**

Database #: SP-01

Date: 2/13/2020

Name of recorder: Jessica Peak

Other surveyors:

Location Name: 3615 Foothill Road - Autumn Blends

GPS name: ipad/Arrow 100 receiver — For Relevé only: **Bearing°**, left axis at ID point____ **of Long / Short** side

UTME _____ **UTMN** _____ **Zone: 11** (**NAD83**) GPS error: **ft./ m./ PDOP** 6in

Decimal degrees: **LAT** 34.415180 **LONG** -119.554374

GPS within stand? (**Yes**) / **No** If No, cite from GPS to stand: distance (m)____ bearing °____ inclination °____

and record: **Base point ID** _____ **Projected UTMs: UTME** _____ **UTMN** _____

Camera Name: JP **Cardinal photos at ID point:** yes

Other photos: Representative photos of stand

Stand Size (acres): (**<1**), **1-5**, **>5** | **Plot Size (m²): 100 /** _____ | **Plot Shape** ____ **x** ____ **m** | **RA Radius** 10 **m**

Exposure, Actual °: E **NE NW SE SW** (**Flat**) **Variable** | **Steepness, Actual °:** _____ **0°** (**1-5°**) **>5-25°** **>25**

Topography: Macro: top upper mid (lower) (bottom) | **Micro:** convex flat (concave) undulating

Geology code: _____ **Soil Texture code:** _____ | **Upland** or (**Wetland**/~~**Riparian**~~ (circle one)

% Surface cover: (Incl. outcrops) (>60cm diam) (25-60cm) (7.5-25cm) (2mm-7.5cm) (Incl sand, mud)

H_2O: 80 **BA Stems:** 2 **Litter:** 13 **Bedrock:** 0 **Boulder:** 0 **Stone:** 0 **Cobble:** 0 **Gravel:** 0 **Fines:** 5 **=100%**

% Current year bioturbation 0 **Past bioturbation present? Yes** / (**No**) | **% Hoof punch** 0

Fire evidence: Yes (**No**) (circle one) If yes, describe in Site history section, including date of fire, if known.

Site history, stand age, comments:

Cattail dominated vegetation w/in bio swale & edges of freshwater pond used as stormwater treatment facility.

One Salix lasiolepis (arroyo willow) & one blue elderberry associated with this habitat

Disturbance code / Intensity (L,M,H): M / 01 / 04 / 05 / ___ / ___ **"Other"** _____ / ___

II. HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Tree DBH : T1 (<1" dbh), **T2** (1-6" dbh), **T3** (6-11" dbh), **T4** (11-24" dbh), **T5** (>24" dbh), **T6** multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)

Shrub: S1 seedling (<3 yr. old), **S2** young (<1% dead), **S3** mature (1-25% dead), **S4** decadent (>25% dead)

Herbaceous: H1 (<12" plant ht.), **H2** (>12" ht.)

Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub: 1 (<2ft. stem ht.), **2** (2-10ft. ht.), **3** (10-20ft. ht.), **4** (>20ft. ht.)

Desert Palm/Joshua Tree: 1 (<1.5" base diameter), **2** (1.5-6" diam.), **3** (>6" diam.)

III. INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation Alliance name: Cattail Marsh

Field-assessed Association name (optional): _____

Adjacent Alliances/direction: western sycamore woodland / south; Ruderal / disturbed / east

Confidence in Alliance identification: L M (**H**) **Explain:** field verified

Phenology (E,P,L): Herb E **Shrub** E **Tree** E **Other identification or mapping information:**

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form
(Revised April 28, 2016)
SPECIES SHEET

Database #: SP-01

IV. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

% NonVasc cover: 20 **Total % Vasc Veg cover:** 80

% Cover - **Conifer tree / Hardwood tree:** 0 / 5 **Regenerating Tree:** 0 **Shrub:** 5 **Herbaceous:** 70

Height Class - **Conifer tree / Hardwood tree:** 0 / 4 **Regenerating Tree:** 0 **Shrub:** 4 **Herbaceous:** 3

Height classes: 1=<1/2m, 2=1/2-1m, 3=1-2m, 4=2-5m, 5=5-10m, 6=10-15m, 7=15-20m, 8=20-35m, 9=35-50m, 10=>50m

Stratum categories: T=Tree, A = SApling, E = SEedling, S = Shrub, H= Herb, N= Non-vascular
% Cover Intervals for reference: r = trace, + = <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%

Stratum	Species	% cover	C	Final species determination
H	Typha latifolia	50-75		
H	Urtica dioica	5-15		
H	Ricinus communis	1-5		non-native
H	Conium maculatum	1-5		non-native
S	Salix lasiolepis	1-5		
S	Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	1-5		

Unusual species: ______

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form

(Revised April 28, 2016)

For Office Use:	Final database #:	Final vegetation type:	Alliance Association

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION circle: **Relevé** or (**RA**)

Database #: SP-02

Date: 2/13/2020

Name of recorder: Jessica Peak

Other surveyors:

Location Name: 3615 Foothill Road – Autumn Brands

GPS name: iPad / Arrow 100 Receiver For Relevé only: **Bearing°**, left axis at ID point____ **of Long / Short** side

UTME ____ **UTMN** ____ **Zone: 11** (**NAD83**) GPS error: **ft./ m./ PDOP** 3.9 ft

Decimal degrees: **LAT** 34.415204 **LONG** -119.552806

GPS within stand? (**Yes**) / **No** If No, cite from GPS to stand: distance (m)____ bearing °____ inclination °____

and record: **Base point ID**____ **Projected UTMs: UTME** ____ **UTMN** ____

Camera Name: JP **Cardinal photos at ID point:**

Other photos: Representative photos of stand

Stand Size (acres): <1, (1-5), >5 | **Plot Size (m²):** 100 / ____ | **Plot Shape** 250 x 10 m | **RA Radius** 10 m

Exposure, Actual °: ____ NE NW SE SW Flat Variable | **Steepness, Actual °:** ____ 0° (1-5°) >5-25° >25

Topography: Macro: top upper mid (lower) (bottom) | **Micro:** convex flat (concave) undulating

Geology code: ____ **Soil Texture code:** ____ | **Upland** or **Wetland/Riparian** (circle one)

% Surface cover: (Incl. outcrops) (>60cm diam) (25-60cm) (7.5-25cm) (2mm-7.5cm) (Incl sand, mud)

H20: 0 **BA Stems:** 3 **Litter:** 10 **Bedrock:** 0 **Boulder:** 7 **Stone:** 5 **Cobble:** 15 **Gravel:** 20 **Fines:** 40 **=100%**

% Current year bioturbation 0 **Past bioturbation present?** Yes / (**No**) | **% Hoof punch** 0

Fire evidence: Yes / (**No**) (circle one) If yes, describe in Site history section, including date of fire, if known.

Site history, stand age, comments:

- Sample point represents extent of stand along southern border of project site.
- No water in Arroyo Paredon Creek
- Non-native species extremely dense in understory

Disturbance code / Intensity (L,M,H): M / 01 / 04 / 05 / ____ / ____ **"Other"** ____ / ____

II. HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Tree DBH : T1 (<1" dbh), **T2** (1-6" dbh), **T3** (6-11" dbh), **T4** (11-24" dbh), **T5** (>24" dbh), **T6** multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)

Shrub: S1 seedling (<3 yr. old), **S2** young (<1% dead), **S3** mature (1-25% dead), **S4** decadent (>25% dead)

Herbaceous: H1 (<12" plant ht.), **H2** (>12" ht.)

Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub: 1 (<2ft. stem ht.), **2** (2-10ft. ht.), **3** (10-20ft. ht.), **4** (>20ft. ht.)

Desert Palm/Joshua Tree: 1 (<1.5" base diameter), **2** (1.5-6" diam.), **3** (>6" diam.)

III. INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation Alliance name: Platanus racemosa Woodland Alliance

Field-assessed Association name (optional): Platanus racemosa – Quercus agrifolia – Salix lasiolepis

Adjacent Alliances/direction: ruderal / disturbed / east & west, cattail marsh / north

Confidence in Alliance identification: L M (**H**) **Explain:** field verified

Phenology (E,P,L): Herb E **Shrub** E/P **Tree** E/P **Other identification or mapping information:**

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form

(Revised April 28, 2016)

Database #: SP-02 SPECIES SHEET

IV. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

% NonVasc cover: 40 **Total % Vasc Veg cover:** 60

% Cover - **Conifer tree / Hardwood tree:** 0 / 40 **Regenerating Tree:** 0 **Shrub:** 10 **Herbaceous:** 50

Height Class - Conifer tree / Hardwood tree: 0 / 7 **Regenerating Tree:** 0 **Shrub:** 4 **Herbaceous:** 2

Height classes: 1=<1/2m, 2=1/2-1m, 3=1-2m, 4=2-5m, 5=5-10m, 6=10-15m, 7=15-20m, 8=20-35m, 9=35-50m, 10=>50m

Stratum categories: T=Tree, A = SApling, E = SEedling, S = Shrub, H= Herb, N= Non-vascular

% Cover Intervals for reference: r = trace, + = <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%

Stratum	Species	% cover	C	Final species determination
T	Platanus racemosa	25-50		
T	Quercus agrifolia	15-25		
S/T	Salix lasiolepis	15-25		
H	Tropaeolum majus	50-75		
H	Solanum douglasii	1-5		
H	Stipa miliacum	5-15		
H	Hedera helix	5-15		
H	Oxalis pes caprae	1-5		
H	Delairea odorata	15-25		
H	Ricinus communis	1-5		
H	Clematis ligusticifolia	+		
S	Rubus ursinus	1-5		
S	Toxicodendron diversilobum	1-5		

Unusual species: _____

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form

(Revised April 28, 2016)

For Office Use:	Final database #:	Final vegetation type:	Alliance Association

I. LOCATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION — circle: **Relevé** or (**RA**)

Database #: SP-03

Date: 2/13/2020

Name of recorder: Jessica Peak

Other surveyors:

Location Name: 3615 Foothill Road - Autumn Brands

GPS name: iPad / Arrow 100 receiver — For Relevé only: **Bearing°**, left axis at ID point____ **of Long / Short** side

UTME ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ **UTMN** ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ **Zone: 11** (**NAD83**) GPS error: **ft./ m./ PDOP** 10 in.

Decimal degrees: **LAT** 34.416592 **LONG** -119.551634

GPS within stand? **Yes / No** If No, cite from GPS to stand: distance (m)____ bearing °____ inclination °____

and record: **Base point ID** _____ **Projected UTMs: UTME** ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ **UTMN** ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Camera Name: JP **Cardinal photos at ID point:**

Other photos: Representative photos of stand

Stand Size (acres): <1, 1-5, >5 | **Plot Size (m²):** 100 / _____ | **Plot Shape** 300 x 10 m | **RA Radius** 10 m

Exposure, Actual °: _____ NE NW (**SE**) SW Flat Variable | **Steepness, Actual °:** _____ 0° (**1-5°**) >5-25° >25

Topography: Macro: top upper (**mid**) (**lower**) bottom | Micro: convex flat (**concave**) undulating

Geology code: _____ **Soil Texture code:** _____ | **Upland** or **Wetland/Riparian** (circle one)

% Surface cover: (Incl. outcrops) (>60cm diam) (25-60cm) (7.5-25cm) (2mm-7.5cm) (Incl sand, mud)

H2O: 0 **BA Stems:** 3 **Litter:** 7 **Bedrock:** 0 **Boulder:** 5 **Stone:** 5 **Cobble:** 15 **Gravel:** 20 **Fines:** 40 **=100%**

% Current year bioturbation 0 **Past bioturbation present?** Yes / (**No**) **% Hoof punch** 0

Fire evidence: Yes / (**No**) (circle one) If yes, describe in Site history section, including date of fire, if known.

Site history, stand age, comments:

Sample point represents extent of Stand along unnamed tributary to Arroyo Paredon Creek on the east side of the Project site.

Non-native species are extremely dense in the understory

Disturbance code / Intensity (L,M,H): N / 01 / 04 / 05 / ___ / ___ **"Other"** _____ / ___

II. HABITAT DESCRIPTION

Tree DBH : **T1** (<1" dbh), **T2** (1-6" dbh), **T3** (6-11" dbh), **T4** (11-24" dbh), **T5** (>24" dbh), **T6** multi-layered (T3 or T4 layer under T5, >60% cover)

Shrub: **S1** seedling (<3 yr. old), **S2** young (<1% dead), **S3** mature (1-25% dead), **S4** decadent (>25% dead)

Herbaceous: **H1** (<12" plant ht.), **H2** (>12" ht.)

Desert Riparian Tree/Shrub: **1** (<2ft. stem ht.), **2** (2-10ft. ht.), **3** (10-20ft. ht.), **4** (>20ft. ht.)

Desert Palm/Joshua Tree: **1** (<1.5" base diameter), **2** (1.5-6" diam.), **3** (>6" diam.)

III. INTERPRETATION OF STAND

Field-assessed vegetation Alliance name: Quercus agrifolia Woodland Alliance

Field-assessed Association name (optional): Quercus agrifolia - Salix lasiolepis

Adjacent Alliances/direction: Agriculture / east / Ruderal disturbed / west / sycamore woodland / south

Confidence in Alliance identification: L M (**H**) **Explain:** field verified

Phenology (E,P,L): Herb E Shrub E/P Tree E/P **Other identification or mapping information:**

Database #: SP-03

Combined Vegetation Rapid Assessment and Relevé Field Form

(Revised April 28, 2016)

SPECIES SHEET

IV. VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

% NonVasc cover:____ Total % Vasc Veg cover:_____

% Cover - **Conifer tree / Hardwood tree:** ____/____ **Regenerating Tree:** ____ **Shrub:** ____ **Herbaceous:** ____

Height Class - **Conifer tree / Hardwood tree:** ____/____ **Regenerating Tree:** ____ **Shrub:** ____ **Herbaceous:** ____

Height classes: 1=<1/2m, 2=1/2-1m, 3=1-2m, 4=2-5m, 5=5-10m, 6=10-15m, 7=15-20m, 8=20-35m, 9=35-50m, 10=>50m

Stratum categories: T=Tree, A = SApling, E = SEedling, S = Shrub, H= Herb, N= Non-vascular

% Cover Intervals for reference: r = trace, + = <1%, 1-5%, >5-15%, >15-25%, >25-50%, >50-75%, >75%

Stratum	Species	% cover	C	Final species determination
T	Quercus agrifolia	50-75		
S/T	Salix lasiolepis	5-15		
H	Marah fabaceous	5-15		
H	Clematis lisgusticifolia	1-5		
H	Tropaeolum majus	25-50		
H	Delairea odorata	50-75		
H	Ricinus communis	5-15		
S	Bouganvilla	1-5		
S	Rubus ursinus	1-5		
H	Stipa miliacenm	5-15		
S	Rhus integrifolia	1-5		
H	Artemisia douglasiana	1-5		
S	Toxicodendron diversilobum	5-15		
H	Oxalis pescaprae	+		
H	Urtica urens	+		
H	Malva parviflora	+		
H	Sonchus oleracus	+		

Unusual species: ______

APPENDIX C

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT PLAN

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT PLAN
AUTUMN BRANDS, LLC AND OCEAN HILL FARMS, LLC
CANNABIS CULTIVATION PROJECT (19CDH-00000-00001)
3615 FOOTHILL ROAD (APN 005-280-041)
CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA

This Wildlife Movement Plan was prepared in support of an application for a Coastal Development Permit with Hearing (19CDH-00000-00001) from the County of Santa Barbara (County) for the Autumn Brands, LLC and Ocean Hill Farms, LLC (Applicants) Cannabis Cultivation Project (Project), located at 3615 Foothill Road (APN 005-280-041), Carpinteria, California. A CDH is necessary to be in compliance with County Ordinance 5027 and the corresponding requirements of Land Use Development Code (LUDC) §35.42.075 (Cannabis Regulations).

Measures described herein are intended to prevent incidental impacts to wildlife that have the potential to occur in the property and proposed cultivation area, including California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*).

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The Project Site is approximately 24 acres located at 3615 Foothill Road, approximately 0.6-mile west of the City of Carpinteria, within the Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District (CCC 2015) (Latitude 34.418425 °, Longitude -119.552548 °). The Project Site is located in the Coastal Zone, approximately 0.4-mile south of foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains and 0.3-mile east of the Pacific Ocean.

The parcel is zoned agriculture (AG-1-20) and nearly the entire parcel is currently in agricultural production, with exception of the existing residence near Foothill Road. Arroyo Paredon Creek runs along the southern Project Site boundary and there is an unnamed drainage that is tributary to the creek along the eastern Project Site boundary. The existing perimeter fence line parallels the top-of-bank (TOB) of the creek and the tributary. Agricultural use on the property consists primarily of indoor greenhouses and support structures (e.g., equipment storage areas, processing areas, etc.) and there is an avocado orchard in the northwest corner.

A man-made detention basin and bioswale are present in the southwest corner of the parcel to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (i.e., greenhouse roofs and parking areas) prior to discharge into Arroyo Paredon Creek. The detention basin and bioswale were designed/constructed to control runoff and protect water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation to Arroyo Paredon Creek.

ABBREVIATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project includes 388,472 square feet (8.92 acres) of cannabis and nursery cultivation. Processing Building #1 (23,072 square feet) and Processing Building #2 (4,870 square feet) will be utilized for ancillary cultivation activities (drying, trimming, packaging). All cultivation activities will be located within existing structures (i.e., seven greenhouses and two separate processing structures).

The Project also includes the following: installation of a new septic system; removal of one trailer, a shipping container, two water tanks; demolition of approximately 6,205 square feet of unpermitted development in the southeastern corner of the property; removal of 428 linear feet of the existing chain-link perimeter fence in the southwestern corner of the property and replacement with "wildlife-friendly" barb wire fencing; relocation of 591 linear feet of chain-link security fencing; and, 0.52-acre of riparian habitat restoration in the southwestern corner of the property.

As requested by the County of Santa Barbara (County), the perimeter fence in the southwest corner of the Project Site, adjacent to the TOB of Arroyo Paredon Creek, will be removed and replaced with a wildlife-friendly fence (e.g., barb wire) to allow for wildlife movement into the southwestern portion of the property. Security fencing will be relocated and will encompass only existing paved areas and infrastructure. In addition, the existing dirt access road within the prescribed setback from Arroyo Paredon Creek in the southwestern side of the Project Site will be removed and restored as part of the Project.

EXISTING WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Project Site has historically been used for agricultural purposes and the majority of the property contains structural features like greenhouses and buildings and has limited habitat value for wildlife. These developed areas are regularly managed and maintained, which precludes use by most wildlife species.

Arroyo Paredon Creek and the unnamed tributary function as a dispersal and migration corridors for upland and semi-aquatic wildlife. The continuous band of riparian and oak woodland habitats allow wildlife movement across a landscape that is fragmented by agricultural and urban development. These corridors enable passage from the north, east, and west of the property and facilitate genetic exchange within populations. Mature sycamore, willow, and oak trees along Arroyo Paredon Creek and tributary provide suitable nesting habitat for raptors and other bird species.

Arroyo Paredon Creek is USFWS-designated critical habitat for southern California steelhead and tidewater goby. Arroyo Paredon Creek could also support other sensitive semi-aquatic wildlife species (e.g., California red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake), during periods of intermittent stream flow.

No special-status species were observed during 2019 and 2020 field surveys. Wildlife use detected or observed during the surveys include Baja California treefrogs (*Pseudacris hypochondriaca*) vocalizing in the creek and numerous raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) tracks in the sediment deposits in the riparian corridor. No tadpoles were observed in the creek channel, detention basin, or bioswale.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

The lack of fences and structures within the Arroyo Paredon Creek riparian corridor permits wildlife movement upstream and downstream of the Project Site. The unnamed drainage that is tributary to Arroyo Paredon Creek allows for unrestricted access from the north, across the developed landscape, to the riparian corridor of the creek. Neither movement nor genetic exchange of animals would be significantly obstructed or impaired by existing fencing.

Generally, the riparian habitat within Arroyo Paredon Creek is fairly dense and the channel is narrow, which limits access for large mammals but allows for small mammal passage (e.g., raccoon, brush rabbit). However, the channel is regularly managed with heavy equipment by the County Flood Control District, which removes large portions of riparian habitat and temporarily opens up/widens the creek channel.

The proposed barb wire fencing in the southwestern portion of the site will allow for wildlife access to the native cattail marsh and open water habitat in the bioswale and detention basin. In addition, the proposed 0.52-acre of riparian restoration along Arroyo Paredon Creek will provide additional foraging and refuge habitat for wildlife. Providing wildlife access to the southwestern corner of the property will be particularly important immediately following flood control maintenance in the creek corridor, which regularly eliminates wildlife forage and refuge opportunities.

The chain-link security fencing will be relocated to encompass only existing paved areas and infrastructure. Chain-link fencing will not impede wildlife movement between the tributary, creek, and the southwestern portion of the property but will prevent wildlife from entering the active operations area, where animals could be subject to injury or mortality (i.e., trampled, crushed, etc.)

Semi-aquatic sensitive wildlife such as California red-legged frog (CRLF) and two-striped garter snake are expected to remain largely within the creek and the associated riparian habitat, including the proposed Riparian Restoration Area. These species would not be drawn to developed areas where there are limited food resources and poor sheltering habitat. Wildlife protection measures are recommended below in the event a CRLF or two-striped garter snake were to occur outside of the riparian corridor.

Smaller terrestrial wildlife species (e.g., lizards, gopher snakes) would also generally be expected to utilize the habitat in the creek and tributary for dispersal. However, small wildlife will be able to move through the barb wire and chain-link fence without harm and disperse across the western side of the property and operations area if they so choose.

To further reduce potential for incidental impacts to CRLF and other wildlife species, workers will receive an environmental awareness pamphlet, emphasizing the special-status species within Arroyo Paredon Creek (e.g., steelhead, tidewater goby, CRLF, two-striped garter snake). The pamphlet will be posted on-site and will include photographs of sensitive species that have the potential to occur in or around the Project Site, will clearly show contact information for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and will provide instructions what to do if a sensitive species is found. In addition, a qualified biologist will be present to oversee site preparation and non-native plant removal in the Riparian Restoration Area to ensure there are no impacts to sensitive wildlife or native plant species.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION MEASURES

The following measures address both common and sensitive terrestrial and semi-aquatic wildlife species that have the potential to be impacted by Project-related activities as they move through the landscape, in or adjacent to the Project Site.

- A worker environmental awareness training pamphlet will be prepared and posted on-site for all employees (including site supervisors, equipment operators, and laborers). The training

will emphasize the presence of special-status species within Arroyo Paredon Creek (e.g., steelhead, tidewater goby, CRLF, two-striped garter snake), identification of those species, their habitat requirements, applicable regulatory policies and provisions regarding their protection, measures being implemented to avoid and/or minimize impacts, and penalties for noncompliance. The pamphlet will also emphasize that if listed species are observed within or near the cultivation area, work will be suspended, the species are not be touched or moved, and the CDFW and USFWS should be notified immediately.

- A qualified biologist should be present to oversee site preparation and non-native plant removal in the Riparian Restoration Area to ensure there are no impacts to sensitive wildlife or native plant species.

- On-going activities within the prescribed 100 foot ESH buffer from Arroyo Paredon Creek will be limited to use of Processing Building #2, existing permitted greenhouses, use of the existing paved fire road, and implementation of riparian restoration.

- If listed wildlife species are observed, work will be suspended and the CDFW and USFWS (as applicable) will be notified immediately. Sensitive wildlife species may be moved from the work area by a qualified biologist holding the necessary permits.

- All erosion control materials shall be free from plastic to prevent entanglement of wildlife.

- Trash and food items will be placed in secured waste storage daily so as not to attract wildlife.