

# Chapter 3      Comments and Coordination

---

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and participation for this proposed project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and coordination with resource agencies and Native American individuals and organizations. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

Consultation with several agencies occurred in conjunction with preparation of the proposed project technical reports and this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. These agencies are identified in the various technical reports and include the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Consultation and coordination between Caltrans, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the City of Rialto regarding the connection of Pepper Avenue with the proposed new SR-210 interchange, has been ongoing since the new interchange was originally identified as a component of the SR-210 Extension Project. The interchange type identified in the SR-210 Extension Project was a diamond interchange configuration; this configuration was reconfirmed as the appropriate configuration for the proposed interchange by the Project Development Team in 2012, based on the consideration of the Traffic Impact Analysis and Supplemental Traffic Impact Analysis prepared for the proposed project.

## **3.1 Consultation and Coordination with Public Agencies**

Caltrans and SANBAG have been in communications with the City of Rialto in conjunction with the City's design and construction of the City's Pepper Avenue Extension and Pepper Avenue Gap Closure Projects. Between May 2011 and October 2011, the City coordinated with Caltrans in the identification and planning of the Pepper Avenue Gap Closure Project as an interim solution until the proposed SR-210/Pepper Avenue New Interchange project is entitled and completed.<sup>1</sup> In February 2013, the City's environmental review of the Gap Closure Project was completed, and in March 2013, a cooperative agreement between the City of Rialto and SANBAG was approved for the two-lane extension of Pepper Avenue to provide interim access to Highland Avenue.

Following is a summary of coordination efforts with agencies in conjunction with identifying and addressing project-related issues for the proposed project.

---

<sup>1</sup> City of Rialto. Rialto City Council Meeting Minutes. October 25, 2011.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

On September 19, 2011, a field meeting with USFWS and Caltrans present was held at the project site to discuss the study area buffer and trapping strategies for San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR). USFWS agreed that trapping would not need to occur within RAFSS southwest of the project limits since this area is known to be occupied by SBKR. This would avoid undue stress on a known SBKR population. USFWS concurred that the trapping effort would be focused within suitable habitat within the project limits. During the field meeting, USFWS also concurred that revegetated Riversidean Sage Scrub within the study area was not suitable for Coastal California Gnatcatcher; therefore, focused surveys for this species would not be required.

On July 12, 2012, and August 6, 2013, 10-day notification was provided to USFWS for each of the respective focused surveys for SBKR. Each notification outlined the work plan for the focused survey effort for SBKR, including trapping locations, methodology, and qualifications of the USFWS permitted biologists.

A preliminary USFWS species list was obtained on July 18, 2012, from the USFWS Environmental Online Conservation System. No new species were identified in this species list from those already identified during the database searches. Ongoing coordination between SANBAG, Caltrans, and USFWS occurred throughout September and October 2012, and then again in August 2013, to confirm the status and extent of prior mitigation for impacts on SBKR suitable habitat related to the construction of SR-210 in the area of the proposed project (on February 9, 2000, per consultation with USFWS, Caltrans purchased 130 credits<sup>2</sup> from the Vulcan Materials Cajon Creek Habitat conservation Management Area to offset impacts to 115 acres of suitable SBKR habitat—including designated Critical Habitat, associated with the construction of the SR-210 Extension Project).

Coordination with the City of Rialto also occurred in 2012 and 2013 in the determination of the extent of mitigation related to the Pepper Avenue Extension project relative to the proposed project.

Approximately 29.2 acres of the total 41.2 acres of SBKR suitable habitat within the proposed project site were included in the area affected by the construction of SR-210. In addition, 1.5 acres associated with the City of Rialto Pepper Avenue Extension project have been mitigated.

Impacts to the remaining undeveloped 8.70 acres of designated SBKR Critical Habitat are proposed to be mitigated in the Vulcan Bank or other approved SBKR bank at a 2:1 ratio (17.4 acres) or as determined after Section 7 Consultation with USFW. In February 2014, the Natural Environment Study prepared for the proposed project was approved, and the Section 7 Consultation process with USFWS initiated. Additional mitigation requirements for designated SBKR Critical Habitat, if determined to be necessary, will be determined in conjunction with completion of the Section 7 Consultation process with USFWS.

---

<sup>2</sup> Credits represent a value that corresponds to existing or created resource or habitat area within established mitigation banks. For the Vulcan Materials Cajon Creek Habitat conservation Management Area (mitigation bank), one credit corresponds to one acre of San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR) habitat.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted on August 8, 2011, and was sent a letter and map depicting the project location. A Sacred Lands Data Files search and list of potentially interested Native American Groups and Individuals was requested. The NAHC responded in writing on August 12, 2011. They stated that a search of their Sacred Lands Database did not yield any sacred lands or traditional cultural properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). In addition, the NAHC provided a list of Native American contacts in San Bernardino County. On March 15, 2012, Caltrans sent letters and maps showing the project location, and a project layout map, to eight individuals or groups.

Follow-up calls were made to the eight Tribes on June 5, 2012, and June 7, 2012. The names and affiliations of all groups and individuals are listed in Table 3-1, along with a summary of efforts to consult with them and their responses.

## **AIR QUALITY**

On June 26, 2012, a Project Summary for Interagency Consultation was submitted to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Transportation Conformity Working Group for consideration of the project. In September 2013, a revised Project Summary was submitted to the SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group. The Project Summary included the following reasons supporting a determination that the project be considered Not a Project of Air Quality Concern (Not a POAQC), as defined by 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1):

- The proposed project is not a new or expanded highway project. Pepper Avenue was planned as an interchange when the SR-210 freeway was originally built, and right of way was reserved for the interchange at that time. The Pepper Avenue Interchange is shown as a future interchange in the City of Rialto's General Plan.
- The Level of Service (LOS) conditions in the project vicinity with and without the proposed project indicate that the proposed project would result in overall improvements in LOS. At horizon year 2036, all project vicinity intersections are predicted to operate at LOS C or better.
- The proposed project does not include the construction of a new bus or rail terminal.
- The proposed project does not expand an existing bus or rail terminal.
- The proposed project is not in or affecting locations, areas, or categories of sites that are identified in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> applicable implementation plan or implementation plan submission, as appropriate, as sites of violation or possible violation.

The "Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms" issued by the SCAG Transportation Conformity Working Group in conjunction with its September 24, 2013 meeting indicated that the determination for the proposed project was that it was considered to be Not a POAQC. A copy of the Transportation Conformity Working Group determination (referencing the proposed project as No. SB20110110rev) is provided at the end of this chapter.

Table 3-1. Native American Contacts

Native American Individual/Tribe	Date of First Contact (Letter)	Dates of Written Replies	Date of Second Contact (Phone Call)	Additional Calls or Emails	Comments
Ann Brierty <i>San Manuel Band of Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
Michael Contreras <i>Cultural Heritage Program Manager, Morongo Band of Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
James Ramos <i>San Manuel Band of Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	None	Called the number provided by the NAHC and was told that Mr. Ramos is no longer a Chairperson for the tribe. Called Ann Brierty in the San Manuel Cultural Resources Department and left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
Joseph Hamilton <i>Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/7/12	6/05/12	Sent email to Cultural Resources Director, John Gomez, on 6/5/12 and left a voice message for him on 6/7/12 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
Anthony Morales <i>Gabrielino/Tongva Tribe of San Gabriel Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left a voice message on 6/5/12. Left a message with Dee Roybal for Mr. Morales on 6/7/12. Ms. Roybal stated that Mr. Morales would call back if he had any concerns.
Sam Dunlap <i>Gabrielino/Tongva Nation</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
Ernest H. Siva <i>Morongo Band of Mission Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.
Goldie Walker <i>Serrano Nation of Indians</i>	3/15/12	None	6/5/12	6/7/12	Left voice messages on 6/5/12 and 6/7/2012 asking for a return call if the Tribe has any concerns regarding the proposed project.

## AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION

Agency correspondence letters are provided on the pages that follow this chapter.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Natural Resources of Concern

**This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.**

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

CARLSBAD FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE  
6010 HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 101  
CARLSBAD, CA 92011  
(760) 431-9440  
<http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/>

VENTURA FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICE  
2493 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE B  
VENTURA, CA 93003  
(805) 644-1766

***Project Name:***

SR210/Pepper Ave Interchange



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Natural Resources of Concern

### *Project Location Map:*



### *Project Location Measurements:*

Area : 44.0 ac.

Length : 1.3 mi.

### *Project Counties:*

San Bernardino, CA



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Natural Resources of Concern

**Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):**

MULTIPOLYGON (((-117.3579721 34.1351065, -117.3579281 34.1357797, -117.3575848 34.1359226, -117.3541515 34.1353729, -117.3509544 34.1351589, -117.347843 34.1352477, -117.3475426 34.13404, -117.349345 34.1335249, -117.3528641 34.1333651, -117.3553532 34.1336492, -117.35722 34.1344307, -117.3579721 34.1351065)))

**Project Type:**

Transportation

**Endangered Species Act Species List**

There are a total of 9 species in your species list

Species that may be affected by your project: [\(View all critical habitat on one map\)](#)

Amphibians				
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> ) Population: Entire	Threatened	<a href="#">species info</a>		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Birds				
Coastal California gnatcatcher ( <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> )	Threatened	<a href="#">species info</a>		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Least Bell's vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	Endangered	<a href="#">species info</a>		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office, Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Natural Resources of Concern

Southwestern Willow flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> )	Endangered	<a href="#">species info</a>		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office, Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Fishes				
Santa Ana sucker ( <i>Catostomus santaanae</i> ) Population: 3 CA river basins	Threatened	<a href="#">species info</a>		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Flowering Plants				
Santa Ana River woolly-star ( <i>Eriastrum densifolium ssp. sanctorum</i> )	Endangered	<a href="#">species info</a>		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Slender-Horned spineflower ( <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> )	Endangered	<a href="#">species info</a>		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Thread-Leaved brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i> )	Threatened	<a href="#">species info</a>		Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office
Mammals				
San Bernardino Merriam's kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> )	Endangered	<a href="#">species info</a>	<a href="#">Final designated critical habitat</a>	Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Natural Resources of Concern

### ***FWS National Wildlife Refuges***

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

### ***FWS Migratory Birds***

Not yet available through IPaC.

### ***FWS Delineated Wetlands***

Not yet available through IPaC.

Transportation Conformity Working Group Project List - September 2013

[Contact Us](#) | [Directions to SCAG](#) | [Help](#) | [Regional Offices](#)

SEARCH:

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [What's New](#) | [Committees](#) | [Meeting Agendas](#) | [Doing Business](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Careers](#)

**PROGRAMS & PROJECTS**

[Compass Blueprint](#)

[Clean Cities](#)

**Environment**

[Air Quality](#)

[Energy](#)

[Environmental Impact Reports](#)

[Environmental Justice](#)

[Intergovernmental Review](#)

[Solid & Hazardous Waste Management](#)

[Water](#)

[Housing](#)

[Local Profiles](#)

[Overall Work Program](#)

[Regional Comprehensive Plan](#)

[Federal Transportation Improvement Program](#)

[Regional Transportation Plan](#)

[State of the Region](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Transportation](#)

**REGIONAL COUNCIL**

[Districts & Representatives](#)

[Executive Officers](#)

[Governing Structure](#)

**LEGISLATION**

[California Legislative Matrix](#)

[State & Federal Programs](#)

[Find Your Representative](#)

**DATA SERVICES**

[Demographics, Trends & Statistics](#)

[Emergency Information Network](#)

[Goods Movement Database](#)

[Integrated Growth Forecast](#)

[Mapping & GIS](#)

[Transportation Modeling](#)

[Scenario Planning Model \(SPM\)](#)

**MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS**

[Press Room](#)

[Publications & Reports](#)

## TCWG Project-Level PM Hot Spot Analysis Project Lists

### Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

September 2013	Determination
<a href="#">IMP091001</a>	Not a POAQC - Hot Spot Analysis Not Required (FHWA concurrence received via email after meeting)
<a href="#">LALS09</a>	Not a POAQC - Hot Spot Analysis Not Required (FHWA concurrence received via email after meeting)
<a href="#">LA0G626</a> <a href="#">Description of Alternatives Purpose and Need</a>	Not a POAQC - Hot Spot Analysis Not Required (FHWA concurrence received via email after meeting)
<a href="#">SB20110110rev</a> <a href="#">SB20110110rev Interchange Memo</a> <a href="#">SB20110110rev Traffic Study</a>	Not a POAQC – Hot Spot Analysis Not Required (EPA, FHWA, FTA, Caltrans, and SCAQMD concurrences received via email after meeting)
<a href="#">SCAQMD Comment Letter LAE3085</a> <a href="#">City of Commerce Response to SCAQMD Letter</a> <a href="#">LAE3085rev</a>	

file:///C:/.../Pepper/AQ/TCWG/Transportation%20Conformity%20Working%20Group%20Project%20List%20-%20September%202013.htm[10/23/2013 1:37:03 PM]