

Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), California juniper (*Juniperus californica*), and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

### 3.11.2.7 Riparian Scrub

Riparian habitats in the corridor are associated with intermittent or perennial streams, agricultural runoff, or ponding along roadways. Riparian scrub (RCIP vegetation code 630) generally consists of pure stands of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), narrow leaf willow (*Salix exigua*), or saplings of other riparian tree species may be present in low numbers within the habitat.

### 3.11.2.8 Riparian Forest

Riparian forest habitat (RCIP vegetation code 610) is sustained by groundwater sources and frequently overflowed lands along rivers and streams. Habitat is dominated by mature willows (*Salix* sp.), and other riparian tree species such as Fremont cottonwood and western sycamore. Understory species are generally shrubby willows and mule fat.

## 3.11.3 Federal or State Listed Species or Candidates Associated With Aquatic, Wetland, and Riparian Habitats

Listed species are species that are designated as endangered or threatened by the State of California or the Federal government. Proposed status includes species proposed for Federal listing or delisting as threatened or endangered. The State candidate designation is for species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. Federal “candidate” species are former USFWS Category 1 candidates.

Out of the 164 species proposed to be covered under the MSHCP, 13 listed species are associated with aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats of western Riverside County (see Table 3.11.A below). The aquatic/wetland/riparian habitats in which they occur are also listed for each species. The species listed with associated habitats are excerpted from data compiled and reported in the Riverside County Integrated Plan Existing Setting Report (LSA, 1999), Preliminary Draft Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Alternatives Development Document (Dudek & Associates, Inc. 2000), and by the Department of Earth Sciences at University of California-Riverside (University of California 2001).

## 3.11.4 Critical Habitats of Aquatic and Wetland Species

The following is a description of the extent of critical habitat areas near but outside of the HCLE Corridor (see Figure 3.11.1, Critical Habitat).

**Table 3.11.A - Federal or State Listed Species or Candidates  
Associated with Aquatic, Wetland, and Riparian Habitats  
Likely to Occur Within the HCLE Corridor**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
<b>Plants</b>			
<i>Ambrosia pumila</i>	San Diego ambrosia	FPE	VP/G
<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>notatior</i>	San Jacinto Valley crowscale	FE	VP/AP
<i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	thread-leaved brodiaea	SE/FT	VP/G
<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	slender-horned spineflower	SE/FE	RS/ALLUVIAL SCRUB
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	FT	VP/AP
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	SE/FE	VP
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
<i>Brachinecta lynchii</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	VP
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Riverside fairy shrimp	FE	VP
<b>Amphibians</b>			
<i>Bufo microscapus californicus</i>	southwestern arroyo toad	FE	R/RS/R AND ADJACENT UPLAND
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	southwestern willow flycatcher	SE/FE	RF
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	SE/FT	OW
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	SE/FE	RS/ RF
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	San Bernardino kangaroo rat	FE	SW

Key: ST state listed as threatened; SE state listed as endangered; FC federal candidate; FT federal listed as threatened; FE federal listed as endangered; and FPE federal proposed for listing as endangered. AP alkali playa; M marsh; G grassland; OW large bodies of open water; R rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands; RS riparian scrub; RF riparian forest; VP vernal pool; and SW alluvial sandy washes and terraces. Refer to Table 5.C in Appendix E for a complete list of habitat types in which these species are known to occur.

Figure 3.11.1 - Critical Habitat

- **Riverside fairy shrimp.** Critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp is not located within the HCLE corridor. In Riverside County, proposed critical habitat for the Riverside fairy shrimp is located in the Santa Rosa Plateau. Other protected lands where the fairy shrimp occur are part of the Assessment District 161 MSHCP at Skunk Hollow.
- **Southwestern arroyo toad.** Designated critical habitat for arroyo toad does not exist within the HCLE corridor. Critical habitat is designated area within the MSHCP study area in Bautista Creek, in the San Jacinto River between Sand Canyon and Indian Creek, and approximately 24 km (15 mi) south and southeast of the HCLE corridor in San Diego county.
- **Western snowy plover.** Designated critical habitat areas for the snowy plover are only on the Pacific coast, not within Riverside County.
- **Southwestern willow flycatcher.** The areas of the designated critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher in the MSHCP study area are in the Santa Ana River from Prado Dam to the City of Riverside, and in the Santa Margarita River canyon from the coast to the San Diego-Riverside County line.
- **Least Bell's vireo.** Designated critical habitat areas for the vireo in the MSHCP study area are in the Santa Ana River from Prado Dam to the City of Riverside. Another critical habitat area adjacent to the MSHCP study area is located in Santa Margarita River canyon within San Diego County, approximately 8 km (5 mi) south of Riverside County.
- **San Bernardino kangaroo rat.** Final critical habitat designation of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat is not located within the HCLE corridor. In Riverside County, proposed critical habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat is located along the San Jacinto River within about 0.8 km (0.5 mi) of the eastern portion of Alternatives 1a and 1b.

### 3.11.5 Narrow Endemic Species Associated with Aquatic, Wetland, and Riparian Habitats

Narrow endemic species are found in areas with climatic or soil-based conditions with unique species assemblages, including clay, alkali, volcanic, and sandy soils. The following wetland and riparian plant species are narrow endemics within the HCLE corridor:

#### 3.11.5.1 Endemic to Western Riverside County

- San Jacinto Valley crownscale, FE, saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.
- Parish's brittlescale (*Atriplex parishii*), saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.

#### 3.11.5.2 Endemic to Southern California

- Thread-leaved brodiaea, SE/FT, saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas, vernal pools.
- Spreading navarretia, FT, saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas, vernal pools.