

- **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.

- California Orcutt grass, SE/FE, saline-alkaline clays, vernal pools.
- San Diego ambrosia, FPE saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.
- Davidson’s saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var.  *davidsonii*) saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.
- Smooth tarplant (*Hemizonia pungens* ssp.  *laevis*), saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.
- Coulter’s goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp.  *coulteri*) saline-alkaline clays, alkali playas.
- Little mousetail (*Myosurus minimus* ssp.  *apus*), saline-alkaline clays, vernal pools.
- Wright’s trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var.  *wrightii*), alkaline soils.

### 3.11.6 Non-Listed Sensitive Species Associated with Aquatic, Wetland, and Riparian Habitats

Sensitive species are not listed, proposed, or candidates, but are considered “species of special concern” by one or several government natural resource agencies and private conservation organizations, including Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, California Forestry and Fire Protection, Partners in Flight, Western Bat Working Group, and California Native Plant Society. Federal species of special concern is a term used for former Category 2 candidate species.

Refer to Table 5.F in Appendix E for a summary of non-listed sensitive species and their associated habitats within the HCLE Corridor.

### 3.11.7 Upland Habitat

The upland habitats within the HCLE Corridor are nonnative grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland, and juniper woodland plant communities. Croplands, dairy, livestock feed yards, orchards, and developed areas are also found throughout the corridor.

#### 3.11.7.1 Nonnative Grassland

Nonnative grasslands (RCIP vegetation code 422) consist of dense to sparse covers of annual grasses with flowering culms 0.2-0.5 m high. This community is often associated with numerous species of native annual wildflowers, especially in years of favorable rainfall. Germination occurs with the onset of the late fall rains; growth, flowering, and seed-set occur from winter through spring. With a few exceptions, the plants are dead through the summer-fall dry season, persisting as seeds (Holland, 1986).

Nonnative grassland species within the corridor include red brome (*Bromus madritensis rubens*), common ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), Mediterranean schismus (*Schismus barbatus*), slender wild oats (*Avena fatua*), and shortpod mustard.