

Similarly, in the western section of these Alternatives, planned rural residential uses could be intensified due to the corridor. Riversidean sage scrub and waters of the U.S. could be additionally affected indirectly and would require mitigation.

Along the alternatives' proposed right-of-way between SR-79 and SR-74, low-density residential uses are planned. Should these areas be pressured to intensify due to implementation of the transportation corridor, some stream habitat could be indirectly affected. Mitigation would be required for any indirect impacts to waters of the U.S.

#### **4.11.2.12 Summary of Impacts by Alternative**

Alternatives 1a and 1b have the highest relative impacts to undeveloped natural areas, listed species, species of concern, total area of critical habitat and reserve lands, MSHCP criteria area, vernal pools, and riparian habitats. These alternatives also have relatively high impacts to habitat fragmentation and, second to Alternative 5b, have the greatest impact to potential riverine waters within a 100 ft buffer of undeveloped natural areas.

Alternative 5b would have the second greatest impact to biological resources because it runs through the rural mountainous areas between Estelle Mountain and Steele Peak and has the greatest extent of impacts to potential riverine waters of the U.S. within a 100 ft buffer of undeveloped areas. This alternative would create relatively high amounts of impacts to MSHCP criteria area, California gnatcatcher critical habitat, Riversidean sage scrub habitat, and chaparral habitat.

Alternative 4d impacts the greatest amount of coastal sage scrub and is one of four alternatives (4d, 5e, 4c, and 5d) that impacts the greatest amount of California gnatcatcher critical habitat. Alternatives 4a, 4c, and 4d all potentially impact the vernal pool/alkali playa habitat near Hemet. These alternatives also impact similar amounts of riverine waters within a 100 ft buffer of undeveloped areas compared to the Alternative H1, Alternative H3, and Alternatives 1a, 1b, 5d, and 5e, closely followed by Alternative 5c.

Alternatives 6a and 6b are the second to least damaging alternatives because they are the shortest routes and because they affect the least amount of natural resource areas, including critical habitat, buffered riverine waters, and riparian habitat. However, these alternatives do impact a moderate amount of upland native habitat.

Alternative H3, Alternative 4a (SR-74 in entirety), and Alternative 5a would have least amount of impact overall to contiguous natural areas. Alternative H3 would be the least damaging to biological resources within the HCLE Corridor. Alternative H3 would cause the fewest potential impacts to listed species, narrow endemics, and species of concern, even though it would be constructed adjacent to the Lake Mathews Reserve.

#### **4.11.3 Potential Mitigation Measures to be Considered in Tier 2**

Potential direct impacts and potential mitigation measures are outlined in Table 4.11.A.