

dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). This community is typically found on north-facing slopes and shaded ravines in the south and more exposed sites in the north. The shrub layer is poorly developed, but the herb component is continuous and dominated by nonnative grasses, particularly common ripgut grass. This plant community is interspersed with coastal scrub and upper Sonoran mixed chaparral on drier sites and with coast live oak forest or mixed evergreen forest on moister sites (Holland 1986).

3.11.7.5 Croplands

Field croplands (RCIP vegetation code 111) are agricultural activities consisting primarily of grain or hay production and are predominantly located in the northern half of the WT Corridor (in the Perris, Menifee, Domenigoni, Paloma, and French valleys). The majority of the vernal pools (see Special Aquatic Sites habitat types) were found in existing croplands.

3.11.7.6 Grove/Orchard

Orchard/grove areas (RCIP vegetation code 112) consist predominantly of citrus, avocado, and grape, with sparse native and nonnative vegetation present. Topography may consist of relatively steeply sloping lands, although generally described as mildly sloping terrain with loamy soils. Channels and narrow wetlands may exist due to irrigation runoff resulting in weedy riparian understory elements such as mulefat scrub and sporadic willows.

3.11.7.7 Dairy

Dairyland terrain (RCIP vegetation code 113) is generally level with fertile, relatively deep loamy soils often mapped as nonnative grasslands. As such, land usually features highly disturbed nonnative grasslands consisting of heavily fertilized pastures of Eurasian grasses. Floodplains are often utilized, incorporating some weedy seasonally present wetlands.

3.11.7.8 Developed

Developed areas (RCIP code 130) include areas where natural vegetation has been largely destroyed by human activity other than agriculture, including land covered by ornamental landscaping, concrete, asphalt, buildings, lawns, escaped exotic/nonnative plant species, golf courses, etc., as well as areas cleared of vegetation or otherwise significantly disturbed by machinery.

3.11.8 Federal or State Listed Species or Candidates Associated with Upland Habitats

Of the 164 species proposed to be covered under the MSHCP, eight state or federally listed as endangered or threatened species are associated with upland habitats within the WT Corridor study area. These are listed below.

**Table 3.11.B - Federal or State Listed Species or Candidates
Associated with Upland Habitats**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat
<i>Allium munzii</i>	Munz's onion	ST/FE	CSS/CH/G
<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Nevin's barberry	SE/FE	CH
<i>Ceanothus ophiochilus</i>	Vail Lake ceanothus	SE/FT	CH
<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	Quino checkerspot butterfly	FE	CSS/CH/G/O/VP
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	ST	G/CR
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain plover	FPT	G/CR/O
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	Coastal California gnatcatcher	FT	CSS/CH/G
<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	Stephen's kangaroo rat	ST/FE	CSS/G

Note: ST state listed as threatened, SE state listed as endangered, FT federal listed as threatened, FE federal listed as endangered, FPE federal proposed for listing as endangered, CSS coastal sage scrub, G grassland, CH chaparral, O oak woodland, CR cropland, and VP vernal pool. Refer to Table 5.C in Appendix E of this EIS/EIR for a complete list of habitat types in which these species are known to occur.

Species descriptions and their locations relative to the WT Corridor are provided in the Biological Resources Technical Report (LSA, 2002).

3.11.9 Critical Habitats of Upland Species

The WT Corridor study area is within designated critical habitat areas for the California gnatcatcher and for the Quino checkerspot butterfly (see Figure 3.11.1: Critical Habitats).

3.11.9.1 California Gnatcatcher

Designated critical habitat for the gnatcatcher in Riverside County is primarily within the foothills and other areas with coastal sage scrub habitat within the Riverside lowland bioregion. In the WT Corridor, the habitat is found in the foothills and rocky knolls surrounding Diamond Reservoir, Lake Skinner, and through French Valley from Bell Mountain to Murrieta Hot Springs. Other designated areas include Sedco Hills and the land within and surrounding the Santa Margarita River Ecological Preserve.

3.11.9.2 Quino Checkerspot Butterfly

In the WT Corridor, the designated critical habitat areas for the butterfly encompass primarily lands north of Winchester Road, south of Scott Road, and east of I-215.

3.11.10 Narrow Endemic Species Associated with Upland 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. Below is a listing of species by the extent of range and location relative to the WT Corridor.