

DOCKETED

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Appendix 5.2B
Rare Plant Survey Report

Stanton Energy Reliability Center Biological Reconnaissance and Rare Plant Surveys

PREPARED FOR: Stanton Energy Reliability Center, LLC
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DATE: August 10, 2016

Introduction

Melissa Fowler (Staff Biologist/CH2M) and Mark Canfield (Staff Biologist/CH2M) conducted a biological reconnaissance and rare plant surveys for special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and nesting birds for the Stanton Energy Reliability Center, LLC (Project Owner) Stanton Energy Reliability Center (Project) on June 30, 2016.

Location and Background

The Project is located on two parcels. Parcel 1 is 1.76 acres and consists of an undeveloped lot. Parcel 2 is 2.21 acres and is paved and used for vehicle and equipment storage. The project site is west of Dale Avenue, approximately 1,400 feet north of the intersection of Dale Avenue and West Katella Ave, in the City of Station, Orange County, California. Land uses within the immediate vicinity include commercial, industrial, residential, and developed/disturbed areas.

Survey Methods

The Project was reviewed for sensitive biological resources including United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designated critical habitat (2016a), special-status plant and wildlife species, and sensitive vegetation communities (CDFW, 2003 and 2009a). Lists of potential special-status species were queried from USFWS (2016b, 2016c, and 2016d), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CDFW, 2016), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (2016). A 5-mile query was used for CNDDDB and USFWS, and a query was conducted of nine USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles for CNPS. The results of these queries and other environmental analyses were reviewed prior to conducting the biological reconnaissance and rare plant surveys.

Conventional survey protocols, including guidelines provided by the USFWS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and CNPS, were reviewed and implemented where appropriate (USFWS, 1996) (CDFW, 2009b) (CNPS, 2001). The Project area and suitable habitat for special-status wildlife and nesting birds within a 100-foot buffer were surveyed where access was permitted (Survey Area). Other potential environmental issues were noted if observed during the surveys.

Special-status Plants

The potential for special-status plants to occur in the Survey Area was assessed based on historical data and existing habitat. Areas with native soil and suitable habitat were surveyed for the presence of special-status plants within the appropriate floristic period.

Special-status Wildlife

The potential for special-status wildlife to occur in the Survey Area was assessed based on historical data and existing habitat. The surveys focused on wildlife observations and observations of wildlife sign including burrows, scat, tracks, remains, and other distinguishing indicators.

Nesting Birds

The Survey Area was surveyed for special-status bird species and species protected by the USFWS Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CDFW Fish and Game Codes. Trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and ground surfaces were surveyed for bird nests. The survey also focused on observations of courtship and behavioral cues. Tall substrates and potential habitat observed in inaccessible areas were surveyed using binoculars.

Other Potential Environmental Issues

Other potential environmental issues, including potential threats to air quality, water quality, cultural resources, and potentially hazardous debris, were observed incidentally and noted as appropriate. The site was surveyed by walking meandering transects.

Survey Results

Survey conditions are presented in Table 1, followed by survey results. Photographs are provided in Attachment 1. A list of plant species observed within the Survey Area is provided in Attachment 2. Lastly, a list of special-status plant species that have been documented within the regional vicinity is included in Attachment 3.

Table 1. Weather Conditions

Date	Time (24-hour)	Project Location	Temperature (°F)	Wind (mph)	Cloud Cover (%)	Precipitation (None, Light, Moderate, Heavy)	Comments
6/30/31/2016	1100-1215	City of Stanton, California	73	10	0	None	Good visibility (8.0 miles); 68% humidity

Notes:

- °F = degrees Fahrenheit
- % = percent
- mph = miles per hour

The Survey Area consisted primarily of disturbed habitat, from a utility right-of-way (ROW), and ruderal vegetation. Wildlife species observed within or adjacent to the Survey Area included the following: American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and rock pigeon (*Columba livia*). A list of plant species observed within the Survey Area is provided in Attachment 2.

Special-status Plants

No special-status plants were observed in the Survey Area.

Special-status Wildlife

No special-status wildlife or sign of special-status wildlife were observed in the Survey Area.

Nesting Birds

No bird nests or nesting behaviors were observed in the Survey Area during the biological reconnaissance surveys.

Other Potential Environmental Issues

Two memorial markers were identified within the Survey Area (Photographs 5 and 6, Attachment 1). It is unknown at this time what the memorial markers are for. Additional investigations may be warranted.

In addition, there is a storm drain/water conveyance structure adjacent to the proposed project site. Although no direct impacts are anticipated, best management practices (BMPs) should be implemented as appropriate during construction.

Summary and Recommendations

No special-status plants or wildlife were observed within the Survey Area. No impacts to special-status species are anticipated as a result of the Project.

References

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2003. *List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)*. Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2009a. *List of California Vegetation Alliances*. Biogeographic Data Branch, Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2009b. *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities*. Sacramento, California. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/bdb/pdfs/guideplt.pdf>.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2001. *Botanical Survey Guidelines of the California Native Plant Society*. December 9, 1983; revised June 2, 2001.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2016. *Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California*. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/>.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2016. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). *RareFind5*. Electronic database. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp>. Sacramento, California.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1996. *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants*. September 23.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016a. USFWS Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species GIS Database.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016b. Candidate Species in California based on published population data. http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/stateListingIndividual.jsp?state=CA&status=candidate.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016c. Species proposed for listing in California based on published population data. http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/stateListingIndividual.jsp?state=CA&status=proposed.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016d. Threatened and endangered species listings and occurrences for California.

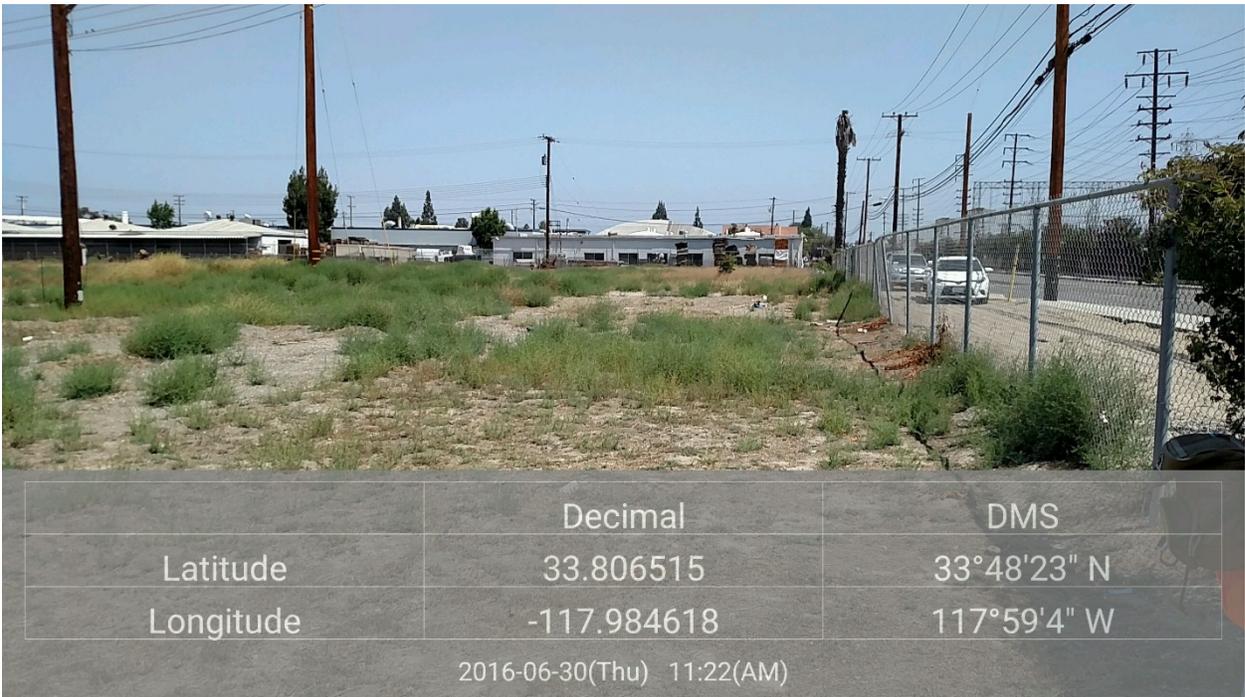
STANTON ENERGY RELIABILITY CENTER
BIOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE AND RARE PLANT SURVEYS

[http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/stateListingAndOccurrenceIndividual.jsp?state=CA&s8fid=112761032792&s8fid=112762573902.](http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/pub/stateListingAndOccurrenceIndividual.jsp?state=CA&s8fid=112761032792&s8fid=112762573902)

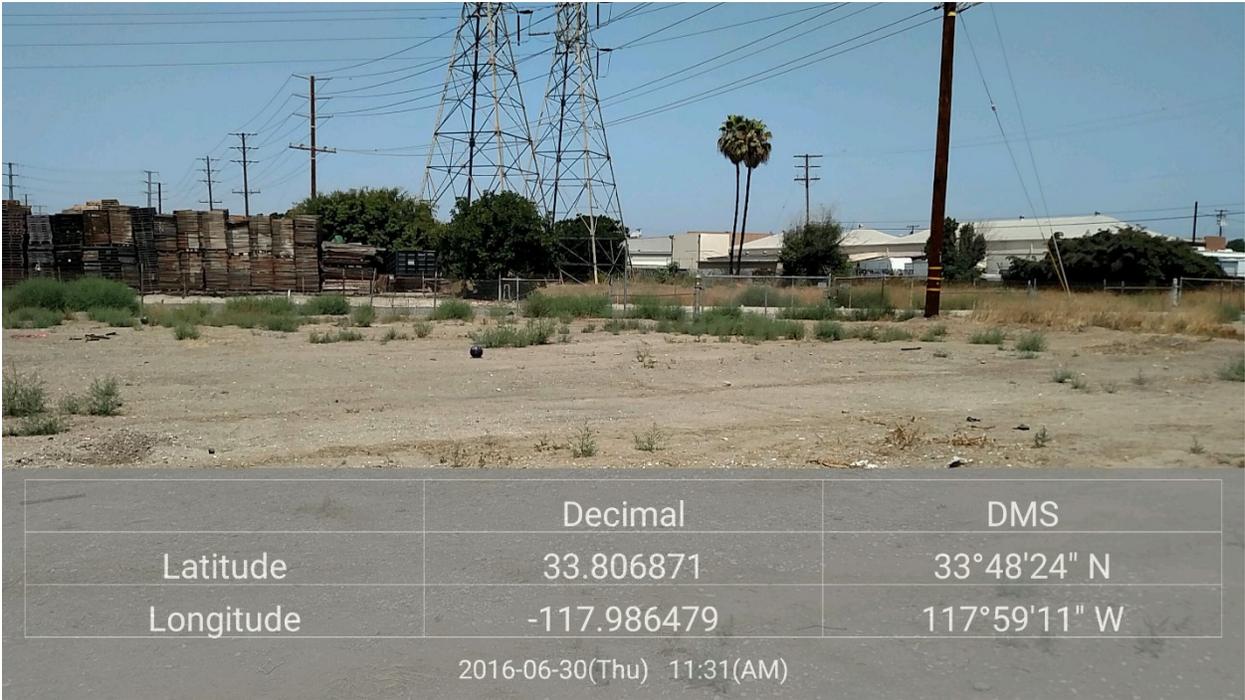
Attachment 1
Site Photographs



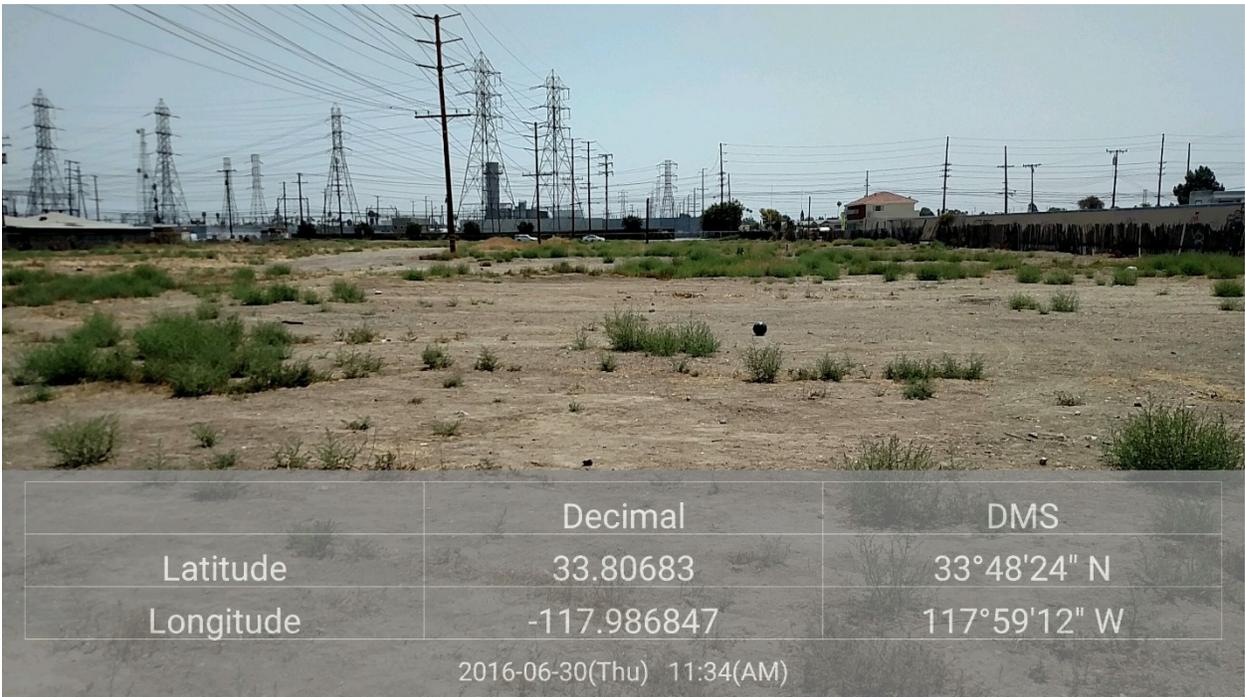
Photograph 1. Representative photograph of the southwest corner of the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California, view facing west. Taken: 06/30/16.



Photograph 2. Representative photograph of the southwest corner of the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California, view facing north. Taken: 06/30/16.



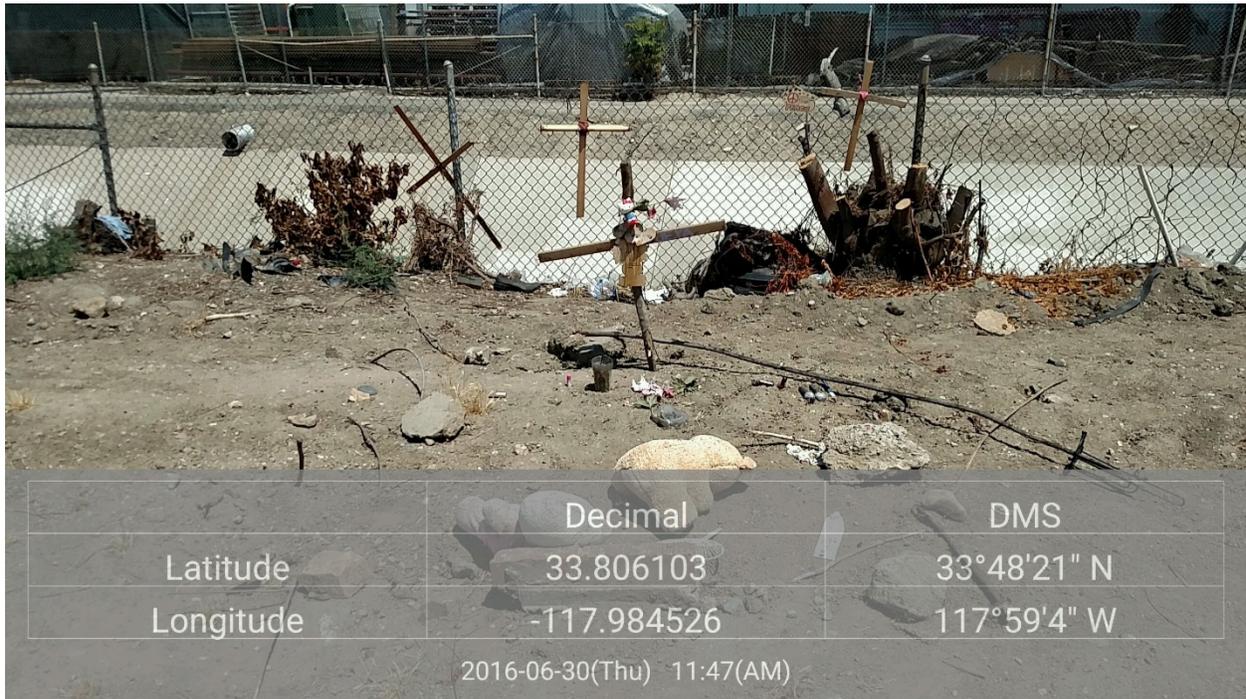
Photograph 3. Representative photograph of the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California, view facing west. Taken: 06/30/16.



Photograph 4. Representative photograph of the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California, view facing east. Taken: 06/30/16.



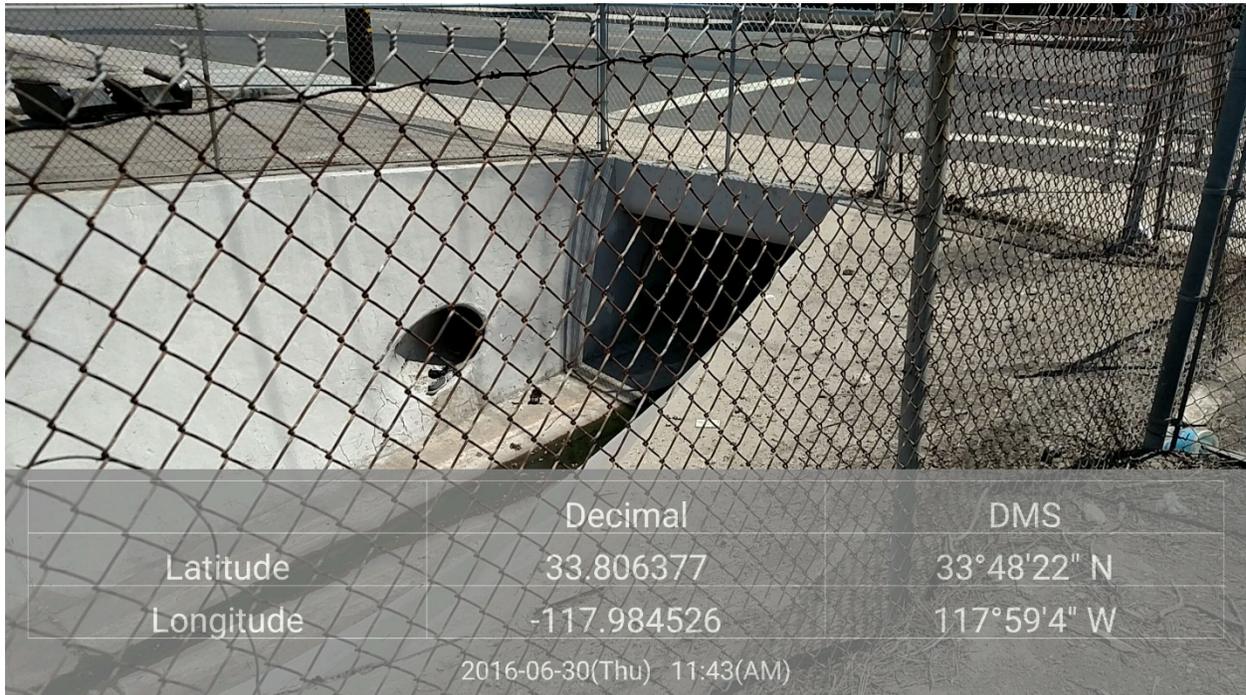
Photograph 5. Photograph of a memorial marker within the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California.
Taken: 06/30/16.



Photograph 6. Photograph of a second memorial marker within the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California.
Taken: 06/30/16.



Photograph 7. Photograph of a storm drain/water conveyance structure adjacent to the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California. Taken: 06/30/16.



Photograph 8. Photograph of a storm drain/water conveyance structure adjacent to the proposed project site, City of Stanton, California. Taken: 06/30/16.

Attachment 2 Observed Plant Species List

Observed Pant Species List Stanton Electric Reliability Project			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal/State	Native or Non-native Species
Saltbush	<i>Atriplex</i> sp.	--/--	--
Wild oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	--/--	Non-native
Black mustard	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	--/--	Non-native
Ripgut brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	--/--	Non-native
Foxtail brome	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	--/--	Non-native
Bindweed	<i>Calystegia</i> sp.	--/--	Native
Yellow star thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	--/--	Non-native
Lamb's quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	--/--	Native
Carrotwood	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	--/--	Non-native
Yellow tansy mustard	<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	--/--	Non-native
Prairie sunflower	<i>Helianthus petiolaris</i>	--/--	Non-native
Summer mustard	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	--/--	Non-native
Foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	--/--	Non-native
Goldenrain tree	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	--/--	Non-native
Cheeseweed mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	--/--	Non-native
Annual yellow sweetclover	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	--/--	Native
Cape leadwort	<i>Plumbago auriculata</i>	--/--	Non-native
Passion fruit	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	--/--	Non-native
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	--/--	Non-native
Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus</i> sp.	--/--	Non-native
Nightshade	<i>Solanum</i> sp.	--/--	Non-native
<p>Federal Designations: (FE) Federally Endangered, (FT) Federally Threatened, (FPE) Federally Proposed Endangered, (FPT) Federally Proposed Threatened, (FSC) Species of Concern, (FC) Candidate</p> <p>State Designations: (SE) State Endangered, (ST) State Threatened, (SR) State Rare, (CSC) Species of Special Concern, (CFP) Fully Protected Species</p> <p>California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank: (1A) Presumed extinct in California; (1B) Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; (2) Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; (3) More information is needed; (4) Limited distribution; (.1) Seriously endangered in California; (.2) Fairly endangered in California; (.3) Not very endangered in California.</p>			

Attachment 3 Special-Status Plant Species

ATTACHMENT 3

Potential Special-Status Plant within the Regional Vicinity of the Stanton Energy Reliability Center

Species	Status ^a (Federal/ State/Other)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Nearest Identified Occurrence
Plants			
Chaparral sand-verbena <i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual herb; blooms January through September. Occurs in coastal scrub and chaparral.	Extirpated. A historic record (1929) for this species was documented within the Santa Ana River. The population has been extirpated as a results of channelization. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Parish's brittlescale <i>Atriplex parishii</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual herb; blooms July through October. Occurs in shadscale scrub, alkali sink freshwater wetlands, vernal pools and wetland-riparian habitats.	Not Expected. A historic record (1881) for this species was documented within the vicinity of Buena Park. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Davidson's saltscale <i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>davidsonii</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.2	Annual herb; blooms April through October. Occurs in alkaline soil within coastal bluff scrub and coastal scrub communities.	Not Expected. This species was documented within the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in 1986. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Southern tarplant <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual herb; blooms May through November. Occurs in grassland and upper edges of coastal marshes, often in disturbed areas.	Not Expected. This species was last documented in Bolsa Chica in 2003. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Salt marsh bird's-beak <i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i>	FE/SE/ CNPS 1B.2	Annual herb; blooms May through October. Limited distribution at the higher zones of coastal salt marsh and coastal dune habitat.	Extirpated. Historic occurrence records for this species have been documented within the regional vicinity; however, the populations are expected to be extirpated. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Los Angeles sunflower <i>Helianthus nuttallii</i> ssp. <i>parishii</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1A	Perennial herb; blooms August through October. Occurs in coastal marshes.	Not Expected. A historic occurrence record for this species was documented in Wintersburg (1924). There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Coulter's goldfields <i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual herb; blooms July through February. Occurs in coastal marshes, playas, vernal pools and mesic grasslands.	Extirpated. A historic occurrence record for this species was documented in the vicinity of Cypress and is presumed to be extirpated (1932). There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.

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Potential Special-Status Plant within the Regional Vicinity of the Stanton Energy Reliability Center

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Mud nama <i>Nama stenocarpa</i>	---/---/ CNPS 2B.2	Annual herb; unknown blooming period. Occurs in marshes and vernal pools.	Not Expected. This species has been documented within Anaheim Marsh and Fairview Park. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Gambel's water cress <i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	FE/ST/ CNPS 1B.1	Perennial herb; blooms April through October. Occurs in freshwater and brackish marshes.	Extirpated. A historic record (1908) for this species has been documented within the vicinity of Huntington Beach and is presumed to be extirpated because of development. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Coast woolly-heads <i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.2	Annual herb; blooms April through September. Occurs in coastal dunes.	Not Expected. This species was documented within Bolsa Chica in 2009. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
California Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i>	FE/FE/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual grass; blooms April through August. Occurs in valley grasslands, vernal pools and wetland-riparian communities.	Extirpated. This species was documented near Lakewood, but is presumed to be extirpated. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Brand's star phacelia <i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.1	Annual herb; blooms March through June. Occurs in coastal dunes.	Extirpated. This species was documented within Byrant Ranch, near Long Beach, but is presumed to be extirpated. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Salt Spring checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	---/---/ CNPS 2B.2	Perennial herb; blooms March through June. Occurs in Creosote bush scrub, chaparral, yellow pine forest, coastal sage scrub, alkali sink and wetland-riparian.	Extirpated. This species was documented within Byrant Ranch, near Long Beach, but is presumed to be extirpated. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
Estuary seablite <i>Suaeda esteroa</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.2	Perennial herb; blooms May through October. Occurs in coastal salt marshes.	Not Expected. This species was documented within Bolsa Chica State Beach Park in 1973. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.
San Bernardino aster <i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i>	---/---/ CNPS 1B.2	Perennial herb; blooms July through November. Occurs in seeps, marshes and mesic grasslands.	Extirpated. This species was near Tustin, but is presumed to be extirpated. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area.

ATTACHMENT 3

Potential Special-Status Plant within the Regional Vicinity of the Stanton Energy Reliability Center

Species	Status ^a (Federal/ State/Other)	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence/ Nearest Identified Occurrence
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Sources:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2016. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). Search within 10 miles of MREC. October.

Calflora. 2016. Berkeley, California: The Calflora Database. Available at: <http://www.calflora.org/>

^a Key to Status Designations:

Federal Designations:

(FE) Federally Endangered, (FT) Federally Threatened, (FPE) Federally Proposed Endangered, (FPT) Federally Proposed Threatened, (FSC) Species of Concern, (FC) Candidate

State Designations:

(SE) State Endangered, (ST) State Threatened, (SR) State Rare, (SSC) Species of Special Concern, (CFP) Fully Protected Species

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Designations:

(1A) Presumed extinct in California; (1B) Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; (2) Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere;

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