

# **Addendum to the Biological Conditions Report Santa Susana Field Laboratory Ventura County, California**

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**Prepared for  
The Boeing Company  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
and  
U.S. Department of Energy**

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This addendum to the Biological Conditions Report (BCR) was prepared for the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in April 2000, and revised in June 2003 and in March 2005, based on additional information gathered since the biological surveys were completed for the original report (Ogden 1998). As stated in the BCR, the original scope of work only included focused surveys on specific RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) sites and vegetation mapping for the remainder of the SSFL. No protocol surveys were completed due to time and seasonal constraints on the original surveys. This addendum addresses additional information regarding federally listed endangered species and sensitive plant and wildlife species possibly present at the SSFL. The vegetation map was updated in March 2005 based on the results of numerous additional surveys conducted by AMEC, MWH, and Padre between 2000 and 2004. The maps from the original April 1998 Biological Conditions Report are not reproduced in this appendix.

### Additional Plant Species

Braunton's milk vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) is a perennial herb that is ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as extremely rare. Braunton's milk vetch occurs in a variety of plant communities, including chaparral, valley grassland, coastal sage scrub, and closed-cone pine forest. A distinguishing feature of habitats with this plant species is the presence of carbonate substrate in disturbed habitats (CNPS Inventory 1994). Braunton's milk vetch has been identified at nine locations in Ventura County. It was observed during 1999 south of the Former Sodium Disposal Facility at the western edge of the property. It may occur at other locations at the SSFL, and future focused surveys will be completed at investigational units where potential actions will occur.

Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerii*) is a slender-branched perennial that is considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere by the CNPS (i.e., classified as CNPS List 1B). Plummer's mariposa lily occurs in the Santa Monica Mountains in chaparral habitats with granitic and alluvial soils. This plant has been identified at two locations along the Happy Valley drainage: (1) about five feet from the streambed near the terminus of Happy Valley drainage at the SSFL property line and (2) on the slopes adjacent to the drainage at the stream division (MWH 2003a).

Another sensitive plant species, thought to be extinct, has been found in the vicinity of, but not at the SSFL. The San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) is a Category 1 candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is currently petitioned for listing at the state level. Habitat for this low, spring-blooming (April to June) annual is thin

soils over rock outcroppings below 762 meters (2500 feet) elevation, usually in association with coastal sage scrub. This species was identified in the past in San Diego County, but recent evidence indicates that these occurrences were incorrectly identified. The CNPS lists the occurrence of this species as greatly limited and considers this California endemic highly sensitive and endangered throughout a part of its range.

In addition to these two plant species, two federally listed threatened species of *Dudleya* may potentially occur onsite, as well as two other endangered plants: Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) and California orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*). These species were not listed in Table 3-1 of the original report. Additional surveys for all of these potentially occurring plant species will be completed in suitable habitats at investigational units where potential actions will occur.

#### Additional Wildlife Species

The coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*) is classified as a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game. This diurnal lizard occurs in a variety of habitats in southern California and feeds primarily on insects (Zeiner et al. 1988). At SSFL, the coast horned lizard has been observed at the Area II Landfill (MWH 2003b).

A number of sensitive wildlife species were considered as potentially occurring at the SSFL (See Tables 3-2 through 3-5). Federally listed endangered species that could potentially occur at the SSFL but were not listed in these tables include the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), and San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegoensis*). These species require protocol surveys at certain times of the year. Protocol surveys were not completed during the original surveys, and habitat for these species is limited at the SSFL. The southern rubber boa (*Charina bottae umbratica*) and southern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis helleri*) are other species of concern in California that may also potentially occur in habitats at the SSFL. Additional surveys will be completed in suitable habitats for sensitive species that may occur at investigational units where potential actions will occur.

### BCR Addendum References

MWH. 2003a. Biological Assessment for the Happy Valley Perchlorate Interim Measures Project.

MWH. 2003b. Area I and Area II Landfills Investigation Work Plan - Work Plan Addendum Amendment, SWMU 4.2 and SWMU 5.1, Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Ventura County, California.

Zeiner, D.C., W.F. Laudenslayer, K.E. Mayer, and M. White (eds). 1988. *California's Wildlife. Vol. 1. Amphibians and Reptiles.* California Statewide Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. California State Department of Fish and Game.