

# Appendix D-2

Potential for Special-Status Plant Species  
to Occur within the Project Site,  
Envicom Corporation, March 2015

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APPENDIX D

**APPENDIX BIO-2**

**Potential for Special-Status Plant Species to Occur within the Project Site (March 2015)**

<b>Name <i>Scientific Name</i></b>	<b>Federal Status</b>	<b>State Status</b>	<b>CNPS List</b>	<b>CVMSHCP Species?</b>	<b>Habitat Requirement</b>	<b>Growth Form Blooming Period</b>	<b>Potential for On-site Occurrence*</b>
Chaparral sand-verbena <i>Abronia villosa</i> var. <i>aurita</i>	None	None	1B.1	No	Sandy soils in chaparral, coastal scrub, and desert dune plant communities below an elevation of 1,600 meters (m).	Annual herb; January - September	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys, and the project site does not provide the species preferred habitat.
Parish's Onion <i>Allium parishii</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Species occurs on rocky soils in Joshua tree woodland, Mojavean desert scrub, and pinyon and juniper woodland. Threatened by mining and vehicles. Elevation ranges from 900 – 1,465m.	Perennial bulbiferous herb; April - May	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys and the project site is well below the elevation range for this species.
San Bernardino milk-vetch <i>Astragalus bernardinus</i>	None	None	1B.2	No	Species often found on granitic or carbonate within Joshua tree woodland and Pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation ranges from 900 – 2,000m.	Perennial herb; April - June	Low potential to occur. No suitable habitat on site. Not observed during surveys and the project site is well below the elevation range for this species.
Coachella Valley milk-vetch <i>Astragalus lentiginosus</i> var. <i>coachellae</i>	Endangered	None	1B.2	Yes	The Coachella Valley milk- vetch occurs in dunes and sandy flats, along the disturbed margins of sandy washes, and in sandy soils along roadsides, in areas formerly occupied by undisturbed sand dunes. Within the sand dunes and sand fields, this milk-vetch tends to occur in the coarser sands at the margins of dunes, not in the most active blow sand areas. As this species is strongly affiliated with sandy substrates, it may occur in localized pockets where sand has been deposited by wind or by active washes. It may also occur in sandy substrates in creosote bush scrub, not directly associated with sand dune habitats.	Perennial herb; February – May.	Low potential to occur. The project site contains a limited amount of potentially suitable habitat for Coachella Valley milk-vetch. The project site is outside the known range of this variety of <i>lentiginosus</i> .

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Gravel milk-vetch <i>Astragalus sabulonum</i>	None	None	2B.2	No	The gravel milk-vetch usually occurs on sandy, sometimes gravelly soils associated with flats, washes, and roadsides. The species occurs in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub. This species is threatened by solar energy development. Possibly threatened by vehicles, recreational activities, and non-native plants.	Annual/Perennial herb; February - June.	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys. Nearest historic recorded occurrences are from 1939 and 1985 and were located “2 or 3 miles east of Mecca.” The 1985 occurrence was extirpated (CNPS 2015).
Triple-ribbed milk-vetch <i>Astragalus tricarinatus</i>	Endangered	None	1B.2	Yes	Associated with rocky slopes in canyons and along boulder strewn, dry, sandy desert washes with creosote bush and encelia species in Joshua tree woodlands. Also occurs in sandy/gravelly soils in Sonoran desert scrub/creosote bush scrub.	Perennial herb; February – May.	Low potential to occur. Known locations in the project region are west and off-site in the Whitewater River watershed. While habitat is present on site, no <i>Astragalus</i> species, including common taxa, were observed during field surveys.
California ayenia <i>Ayenia compacta</i>	None	None	2B.3	No	The species is found on rocky areas in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. Elevation ranges from 150 – 1,095m.	Perennial herb; March – April.	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys but habitat is present. Nearest historic recorded occurrences are from 1941 and located in the vicinity of Lost Palms Canyon and Munsen Canyon, Eagle Mountains, and Joshua Tree National Park.
Las Animas colubrina <i>Colubrina californica</i>	None	None	2B.3	No	Found on narrow, steep, rocky ravines or washes within Sonoran desert scrub and Mojavean desert scrub. Elevation ranges from 10 – 1,000m.	Perennial deciduous shrub; April – June.	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys.

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Foxtail cactus <i>Coryphantha alversonii</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Occurs in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub Found in sandy or rocky habitats, usually granitic. Also found in gravelly slopes and dissected alluvial fans. Elevation ranges from 75 – 1,525m.	Perennial stem succulent; April – June.	<del>Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys, but a closely related species (<i>Mammillaria tetrancistra</i>) was observed, and pockets of suitable habitat are present.</del> Present. This species was observed in the southwestern portion of the project site.
Ribbed cryptantha <i>Cryptantha costata</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Found within Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub and desert dunes with sandy soils. Elevation ranges from -60 – 500m.	Annual herb; February – May.	Low to Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys but habitat is present.
Winged cryptantha <i>Cryptantha holoptera</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Found within Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. Elevation ranges from -100 – 1,690m.	Annual herb; March - April.	Low to Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys but habitat is present.
California ditaxis <i>Ditaxis serrata</i> var. <i>californica</i>	None	None	3.2	No	Found within Sonoran desert scrub on sandy washes and alluvial fans of the foothills and lower desert slopes. Elevation ranges from 30 – 1,000m.	Perennial herb; March – December.	Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys but habitat is present.
Joshua Tree poppy <i>Eschscholzia androuxii</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Found in desert washes, flats, and slopes; sandy, gravelly, and/or rocky soils. The species occurs in Joshua tree woodland and Mojavean desert scrub. Elevation ranges from 585 – 1,685m.	Annual herb; February – June.	Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys, and although the project site does not provide the species preferred habitat marginally suitable habitat is present.
Wright's jaffueliobryum moss <i>Jaffueliobryum wrightii</i>	None	None	2B.3	No	Species occurs in dry openings, rock crevices, and carbonate. The species is found in alpine dwarf scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, and Pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation ranges from 160 – 2,500m.	Moss	Low potential to occur. No suitable habitat on site. Not observed during surveys, and the project site does not provide the species preferred habitat.
Spearleaf <i>Matelea parvifolia</i>	None	None	2B.3	No	Found in Mojavean desert scrub, creosote desert scrub, and Sonoran desert scrub on dry, rocky ledges and	Perennial herb; March – May.	Low potential to occur. Sonoran desert scrub habitat is present on the proposed project site, but this

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					slopes. Elevation ranges from 440 – 1,095m.		species was not observed during field surveys.
Spiny-hair blazing star <i>Mentzelia tricuspis</i>	None	None	2B.1	No	Found in sandy, gravelly, slopes, and washes within Mojavean desert scrub. Elevation ranges from 150 – 1,280m.	Annual herb; March – May.	Low potential to occur. Suitable habitat is present but this species was not observed during surveys and the species has not been documented in close vicinity to the project site.
Slender cottonheads <i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	None	None	2B.2	No	Occurs in coastal dunes, desert dunes, or Sonoran desert scrub, within dunes or sand habitat, 0 – 560 m.	Annual herb; March – May.	Low potential to occur. Not observed during surveys. Nearest historic recorded occurrences are from 1922 and the exact location is unknown but mapped by CNDDDB as best guess at Mecca, which is 9 miles southwest of the project site (CNDDDB 2015).
Thorny milkwort <i>Polygala acanthoclada</i>	None	None	2B.3	No	Occurs in chenopod scrub, Joshua tree woodland and Pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation ranges from 760 – 2285m.	Perennial shrub; May – August.	Low potential to occur. The project site does not contain suitable habitat to support thorny milkwort. The project site is also outside the known range of this species.
Latimer's woodland-gilia <i>Saltugilia latimeri</i>	None	None	1B.2	No	Rocky or sandy substrate, often of granitic composition, within chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland, and seasonal washes. Elevation ranges from 400 – 1,900 m.	Annual herb; March – June.	Low potential to occur. Desert scrub habitat is present on the project site but this species was not observed during field surveys.
Orocopia sage <i>Salvia greatae</i>	None	None	1B.3	Yes	Found in Mojavean desert scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. The preferred habitat of Orocopia sage is in gravelly or rocky soils on broad bajadas or fans, often adjacent to desert washes, or on the rocky slopes of canyons. It may occur on alluvial terraces and sandy or rocky benches	Perennial evergreen shrub; March – April.	Low to Moderate potential to occur. Not observed during surveys but habitat is present.

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					elevated above the flood plain of a wash. The species does not appear to occur within the immediate wash zone.		
Coves' cassia <i>Senna covesii</i>	None	None	2B.2	No	This perennial shrub is found in open dry, sandy desert washes and on slopes within Sonoran desert scrub.	Perennial herb; March – June.	Low potential to occur. Sonoran desert scrub and wash habitat is present on the project site, but this species was not observed during field surveys and would have been detected if present. Nearest historic CNDDDB occurrence is located near I-10 west of the Pinto Chiriaco Summit in the Eagle Mountains from 1994 (CNDDDB 2015).
Hall's tetracoccus <i>Tetracoccus hallii</i>	None	None	4.3	No	Species occurs in Mojavean and Sonoran desert scrub. Elevation ranges from 30 – 1,200m.	Perennial deciduous scrub; January – May.	<del>High potential to occur. Sonoran desert scrub and wash habitat is present on the project site and this species was previously documented in close proximity to the northern boundary of the project site. This species was not observed during field surveys but should have been detected if present.</del> Present. This species was observed in low numbers within the project area.
Jackass-clover <i>Wislizenia refracta</i> ssp. <i>refracta</i>	None	None	2B.2	No	Species occurs in desert dunes, Mojavean desert scrub, playas, and Sonoran desert scrub.	Annual herb; April – November.	Low potential to occur. Sonoran desert scrub and wash habitat is present on the project site, but this species was not observed during field surveys. The only source of occurrence is a 1936 collection approximately "10 miles e of Indio" (CNDDDB 2015).

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Mecca aster <i>Xylorhiza cognata</i>	None	None	1B.2	Yes	Mecca aster is a perennial shrub that occurs in Sonoran desert scrub, on steep canyon slopes and faces, and at the bases of canyon slopes and in washes. It typically occurs on fluvial mud hills in washes and along lower slopes. Substrates are typically sandstone or rocky alkali/gypsum clays. Most of the known occurrences are along roads or well-traveled hiking routes.	Perennial herb; January – June.	Low potential to occur. While Sonoran desert scrub and wash habitats are present on the project site, other features typically associated with this species (sandstone, fluvial mud hills) are absent. This species was not observed during field surveys and would have been detected if present.

Sources: Calflora 2015; CNDDDB 2015; CNPS 2015; Psomas, Biological Resources of Paradise Valley, 2007; Read, Biological Resources of Paradise Valley, 2009; County of Riverside, Travertine Point Certified EIR, 2012.

The following status codes are applicable to special-status plants:

Federally Protected Species

FE (Federal Endangered): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

FT (Federal Threatened): A species that is likely to become Endangered in the foreseeable future.

FC (Federal Candidate): A species for which USFWS has sufficient information on its biological status and threats to propose it as Endangered or Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

State Protected Species

CE (California Endangered): A native species or subspecies which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.

CT (California Threatened): A native species or subspecies that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an Endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and management efforts required by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as "Rare" on or before January 1, 1985, is a "Threatened species."

CR (California Rare): A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is rare under the Native Plant Protection Act when, although not presently threatened with extinction, it is in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become Endangered if its present environment worsens. Animals are no longer listed as Rare; all animals listed as Rare before 1985 have been listed as Threatened.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank

CRPR 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere.

CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

CRPR 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere.

CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

CRPR 3: A review list for plants for which there is inadequate information to assign them to one of the other lists or to reject them.

CRPR 4: A watch list for plants that are of limited distribution in California.

CNPS Threat Rank

The CNPS Threat Rank is an extension added onto the California Rare Plant Rank and designates the level of endangerment, as follow:

- 0.1-Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat).
- 0.2-Fairly threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat).

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.3-Not very threatened in California (&lt;20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known).</li> </ul> <p>* Categories considered in this evaluation are defined as follows:</p> <p><u>High Potential</u>: documented occurrence in the region, species habitat associations are specific and well documented, habitat on the project site has all of the features that are typically associated with the species, and the site is within the known geographic and elevation range of the species. One of the plant species reviewed fell into this category.</p> <p><u>Moderate Potential</u>: documented occurrence in the region, habitat on the project site has most, but not all, features typically associated with the species, and the site is within the known geographic and elevation range of the species.</p> <p><u>Low Potential</u>: reported occurrences in the surrounding region, or the project site are within the known geographic and elevation range of the species, but few habitat features typically associated with the species are present on the site. In cases where there is lack of detail regarding specific habitat associations (e.g. the species occurs in “Sonoran desert scrub”, which covers a large geographic region), negative results of field surveys conducted at the appropriate time of year for detectability would place the species in the “low potential” category.</p> <p><u>Not Expected</u>. No habitat features typically associated with the species are present on the site.</p>							