

APPENDIX B

2005 Spring Survey – Addendum to Baseline Biological Survey
By Biological Resource Specialists, August 2005

**2005 SPRING SURVEY
FOR
THE PROPOSED WHITEWATER ROCK & SUPPLY COMPANY'S
SUPER CREEK, 12.3 ACRE QUARRY EXPANSION
AND POTENTIAL SUPER CREEK DEBRIS BASIN,
DESERT HOT SPRINGS,
RIVERSIDE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA
Addendum to the Baseline Biological Survey**

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AUGUST 2005

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ROCK AND SUPPLY COMPANY'S SUPER CREEK, 12.3 ACRE
QUARRY EXPANSION, AND POTENTIAL SUPER CREEK DEBRIS
BASIN, DESERT HOT SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA**

Addendum to the Baseline Biological Survey

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SUMMARY

At the request of Webber & Webber Mining Consultants, Inc., John F. Wear, Biological Resource Specialists, conducted a spring survey of the proposed Whitewater Rock and Supply Company's Super Creek, 12.3 acre Quarry expansion, and potential Super Creek Debris Basin, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. The biological study area is located in the western half of Riverside County, approximately five and a half miles south of the San Bernardino/Riverside County lines, approximately 2.4 miles north of Interstate Highway 10. The expansion area is specifically located in the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ and Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ and the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 3 East, San Bernardino Baseline Meridian, as shown on the White Water, California, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle map, Riverside County, California, while the Super Creek debris basin is located in the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 3 East, San Bernardino Baseline Meridian, as shown on the Desert Hot Springs and White Water, California, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle maps, Riverside County, California.

The project expansion site is generally a steep north-south rocky ridge with two peaks, above (west of) the existing quarry. The proposed debris basin is at the eastern base of Painted Hill in the Super Creek Channel. The elevation of the northern peak ranges from 2,355 feet (725 meters) at the summit to 2,250 feet (692 meters) on the west slope and 2,100 feet (646 meters) on the east slope. The northern peak ranges from 2,355 feet (725 meters) at the summit to 2,250 feet (692 meters) on the west slope and 2,100 feet (646 meters) on the east slope. The elevation of the southern peak ranges from 2,479 feet (763 meters) to 2,300 feet (708 meters) on the west slope to 2,400 feet (739 meters) above sea level (ASL). The elevation of the proposed debris basin ranges from 1,900 feet (585 meters) on the edges to 1,875 feet (577 meters) on the bottom of the basin. Surrounding land use consists of open desert, the Whitewater canyon to the west and wind farm development on the surrounding lands to the south, east, and west.

The expansion site vegetation consists of sparse wind-swept ecotonal mixture of Riversidean Sage Scrub, Juniper Woodland, and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub community elements, while the vegetation of the proposed basin consists of a sparse example of Mulefat Scrub Riparian community elements. There were an additional nineteen (19) additional plant taxa identified this spring survey for a total of fifty-eight (58) species (thirty-nine previously recorded (39)). Only a single new vertebrate species house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was added to four (4) vertebrates including one reptile, two birds, and one mammal species that were previously identified as occurring on or flying over the survey area.

One sensitive plant species designated by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (CNPS 2001), the white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), was observed above the site. No desert tortoise signs (i.e. scats, burrows, pallets, tracks, egg shells or live tortoises) were observed on the project site during the survey. No other sensitive wildlife species was identified as using the site.

The Super Creek drainage probably functions as a wildlife corridor with its narrow channel and rather steep walls. To function as a corridor, wildlife species would have to be able to move from one area to another through this site. The Super Creek drainage is a dry drainage that only carries surface water during rain storms, but because of the riparian species present in the drainage, it represents potential jurisdictional waters.

If this project is approved, approximately 12.3 acres of native vegetation will be impacted, as the quarry is expanded. The loss of the vegetation is not expected to be significant, the lower ecotonal mixture of Riversidean Sage Scrub, Juniper Woodland, and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub community elements present on the site are common along the western edge of the Sonoran desert in Riverside County, but are rapidly being impacted by housing and wind energy development in the San Geronio Pass area. This area does not represent a sensitive community at this time. The potential loss will contribute to the cumulative impacts to these communities occurring as development continues in these areas. The loss of a portion of the approximately 2.75 acres of sparse Mulefat Scrub Riparian community elements in the Super Creek channel could be considered sensitive because of the rarity of riparian habitats in dry Southern California. All impacts to these community elements would be kept to a minimum as outlined in the required state and federal permits for such a development.

Certainly, most wildlife species currently utilizing the site will be impacted by the mining of the site. Most species that are able will move into adjacent areas, while some individuals may be lost to heavy equipment and other human activities.

One sensitive plant taxon, white-bracted spineflower was identified near the Super Creek debris basin site, but no impacts to sensitive plants are expected if any construction in the basin is monitored to prevent any impacts to this species. The triple-ribbed milk-vetch specimen was found southwest of the current site in an area that was previously disturbed and should not be impacted by this proposed quarry expansion.

Since no sensitive wildlife species was identified as using the sites, no impacts are expected.

Since the Super Creek drainage probably functions as a wildlife corridor as stated above, any design for a debris basin in the bottom of the Super Creek drainage would have to be done to allow for the potential movement of wildlife species through the area and not act as a blockage to this possible movement.

The Super Creek drainage is a dry drainage that only carries surface water during rain storms, but because of the riparian species present in the drainage, a 1600 permit, Stream Alteration permit would be required that from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and a consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to determine whether a Nationwide 404 Permit would be required for the construction of the basin (whether the dry drainage represents potential jurisdictional waters).

Meetings and possible field visits should be conducted with the CDFG and the ACOE for the potential permitting of a debris basin in the Super Creek drainage. Since no federally

listed species will be impacted by the proposed project, a Letter of No Effect could be placed in the project file for this proposed expansion.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

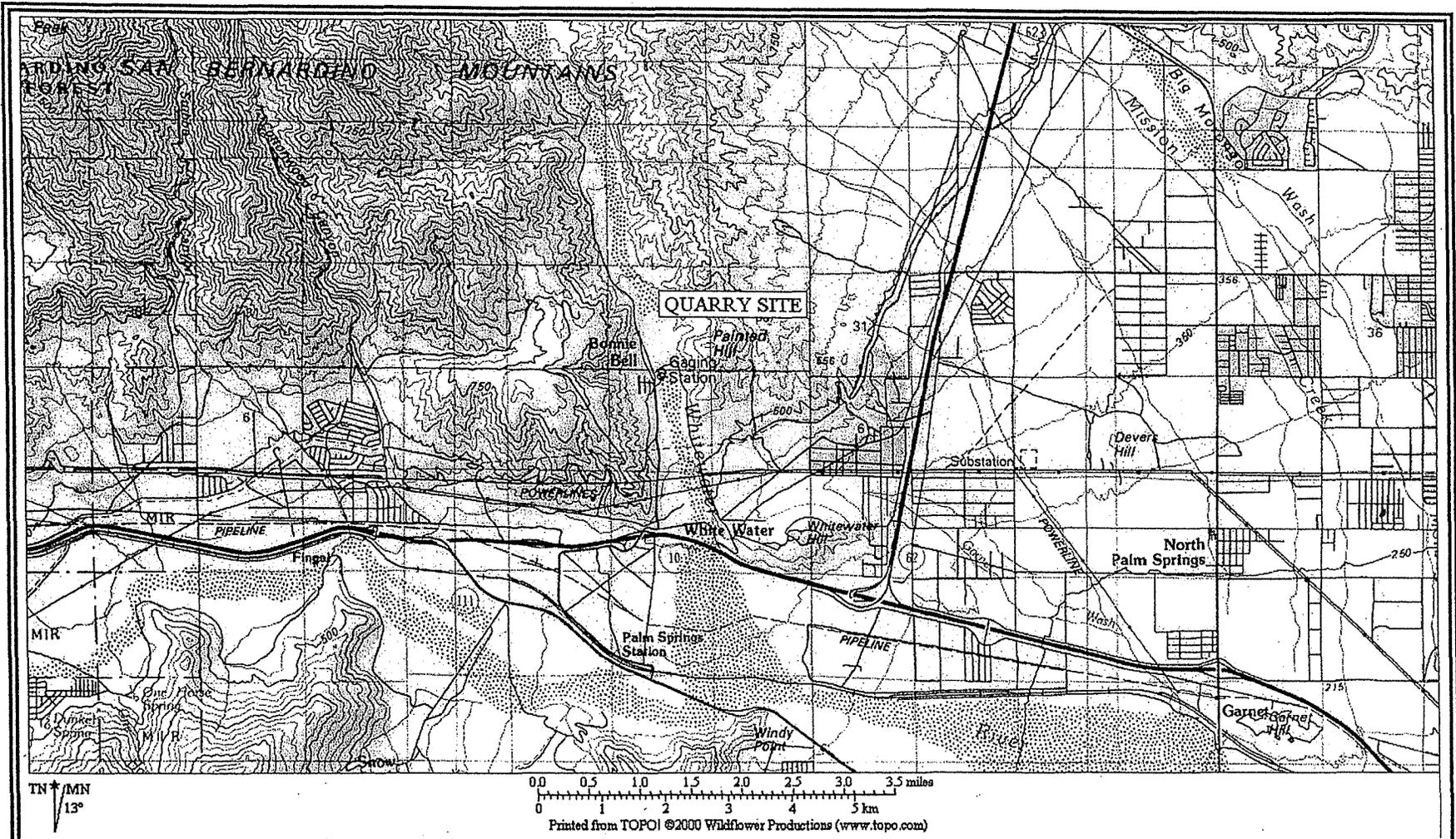
At the request of Webber & Webber Mining Consultants, Inc., John F. Wear, Biological Resource Specialists, conducted a spring survey of the proposed Whitewater Rock and Supply Company's Super Creek, 12.3 acre Quarry expansion, Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California. The biological study area is located in the western half of Riverside County, approximately five and a half miles south of the San Bernardino/Riverside County lines, approximately 2.4 miles north of Interstate Highway 10 (Figure 1). The expansion area is specifically located in the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ and Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ and the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 3 East, San Bernardino Baseline Meridian, as shown on the White Water, California, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle map, Riverside County, California, while the Super Creek debris basin is located in the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 3 East, San Bernardino Baseline Meridian, as shown on the Desert Hot Springs and White Water, California, U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle maps, Riverside County, California (Figure 2).

The project expansion site is generally a steep north-south rocky ridge with two peaks, above (west of) the existing quarry. The proposed debris basin is at the eastern base of Painted Hill in the Super Creek Channel. The elevation of the northern peak ranges from 2,355 feet (725 meters) at the summit to 2,250 feet (692 meters) on the west slope and 2,100 feet (646 meters) on the east slope. The northern peak ranges from 2,355 feet (725 meters) at the summit to 2,250 feet (692 meters) on the west slope and 2,100 feet (646 meters) on the east slope. The elevation of the southern peak ranges from 2,479 feet (763 meters) to 2,300 feet (708 meters) on the west slope to 2,400 feet (739 meters) above sea level (ASL). The elevation of the proposed debris basin ranges from 1,900 feet (585 meters) on the edges to 1,875 feet (577 meters) on the bottom of the basin. Surrounding land use consists of open desert, the Whitewater canyon to the west and wind farm development on the surrounding lands to the south, east, and west.

The expansion site vegetation consists of sparse wind-swept ecotonal mixture of Riversidean Sage Scrub, Juniper Woodland, and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub community elements, while the vegetation of the proposed basin consists of a sparse example of Mulefat Scrub Riparian community elements. The climate is typical of the western edge of the Sonoran Desert demonstrating a pattern of hot, dry summers with infrequent showers, and cool, dry winters with occasional precipitation, usually falling as rain.

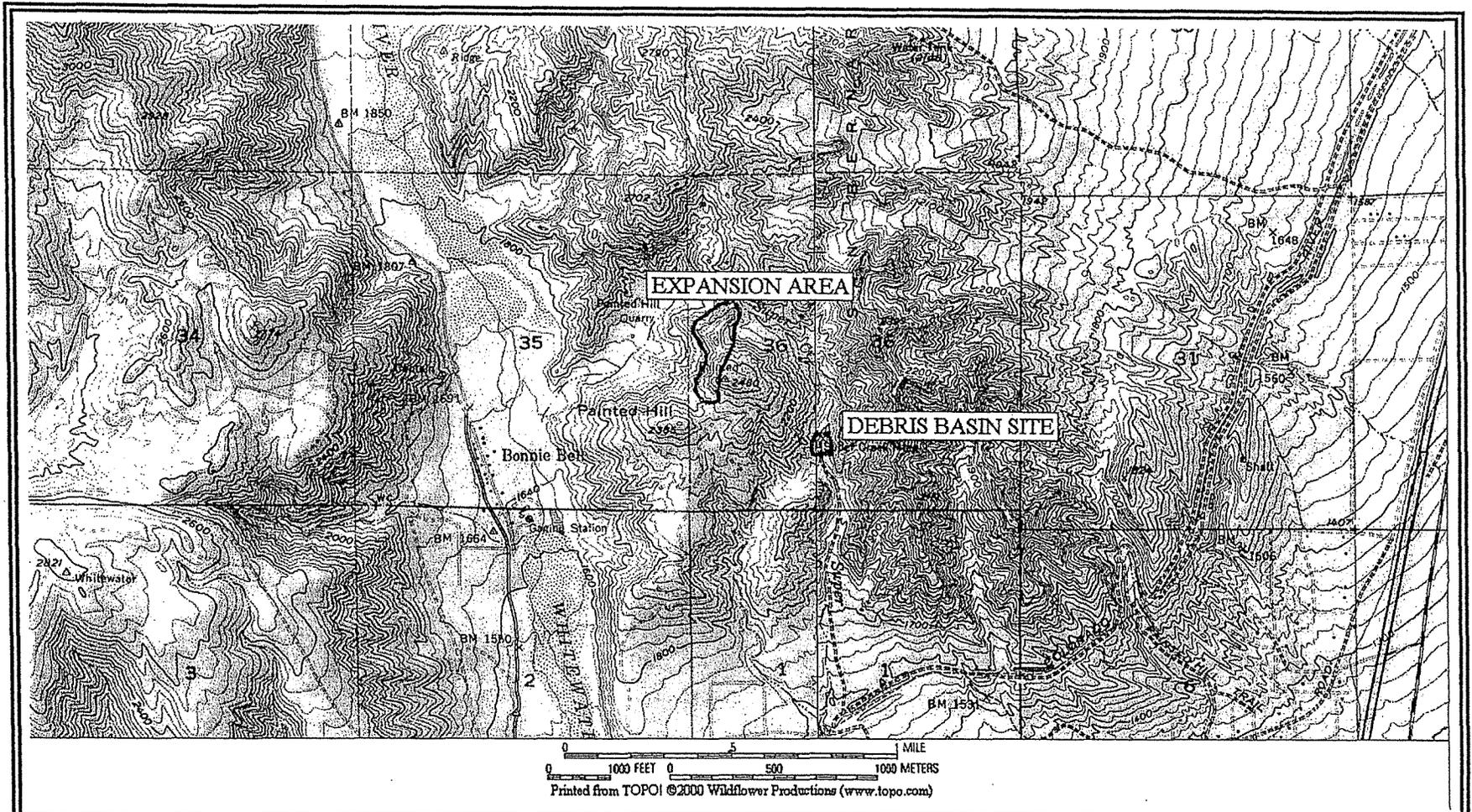
2.0 METHODOLOGY

The survey area is connected to a fully permitted mining operation, which can continue without the proposed expansion and the debris basin, but would be more sustainable with the expansion area, because of this and the location of the expansion area and basin a protocol survey of the existing site was not completed. The expansion area, the Super Creek channel, the proposed debris basin, and the surrounding canyon were walked using



REGIONAL LOCATION MAP
SUPER CREEK QUARRY
 DESERT HOT SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

FIGURE 1



BIOLOGICAL SURVEY AREA MAP
SUPER CREEK QUARRY
DESERT HOT SPRINGS, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



FIGURE 2

standard thirty-foot wide desert tortoise transects wherever possible, no buffer was walked around the proposed expansion area and the western slopes of the site could not be walked because of their steepness, but were observed using binoculars (7 x 35 power). All plant and vertebrate species observed were recorded. Unobserved species were identified through indirect signs (i.e. scat, tracks, calls, nests, burrows, etc.). Scientific nomenclature for this report is from the following standard reference sources: plant communities, Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (1995), Holland (1986); flora, Baldwin (2002), Hickman (1993), Munz (1974); common plant names, Baldwin (2002), and Jaeger (1969); reptiles, Stebbins (2003); and birds and mammals, CDFG (2000). Plant specimens not readily identified were collected and taken to Andrew C. Sanders, Herbarium Scientist of the University of California, Riverside (UCR) Herbarium for identification. Small mammal trapping was not conducted.

The survey of the expansion area and access roads was conducted on May 26, and June 21, 2005, by John F. Wear. The survey was conducted under the following weather conditions:

May 26th: Between 1108 and 1400 hours PDT, under a clear sky, with a breeze from the west and an ambient temperature of 35° C 1135 and at 1400 PDT.

June 21st: Between 1020 and 1145 hours PDT, under a clear sky, with a breeze from the west and an ambient temperature range of 35° C at 1020 to 36° C at 1145 PDT, with 25% high thunder heads forming.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 VEGETATION

There were an additional nineteen (19) additional plant taxa identified this spring survey for a total of fifty-eight (58) species (thirty-nine previously recorded (39) (See Appendix A). These taxa probably represent the majority, if not all the species on the site that germinated in 2004 and 2005. The proposed debris basin supports a sparse example of Mulefat Scrub Riparian community elements with mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), two Fremont cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*) seedlings, tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*), bladderpod (*Isomeris arborea*), a single California juniper (*Juniperus californicas*), honey-sweet (*Tidestromia oblongifolia*), catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*) and ghost flower (*Mohavea confertiflora*). The surrounding uplands support other desert species including jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), California broom (*Lotus scoparius* var. *brevialatus*), bladder sage (*Salazaria mexicana*), Wright's buckwheat (*Eriogonum wrightii* var. *nodosum*) and the other species observed during last year's survey. See Appendix A for the complete species list of the new species observed. The quarry expansion area supports a sparse wind-swept example of a lower ecotonal mixture of Riversidean Sage Scrub, Juniper Woodland, and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub community elements (see Biological Resource Specialists 2005, for a discussion of the plant species present).

3.2 WILDLIFE

Only a single new vertebrate species house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) was added to four (4) vertebrates including one reptile, two birds, and one mammal species that were previously identified as occurring on or flying over the survey area. These species are listed in Appendix A. Additional vertebrates probably utilize the sites, but were not detected due to the high air temperatures during the surveys.

3.3 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Sensitive Plants

One sensitive plant species designated by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (CNPS 2001), the white-bracted spineflower (*Chorizanthe xanti* var. *leucotheca*), Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family), a CNPS List 1B taxon, with an R-E-D Code of 2-2-3. This species was observed growing on an old road cut just west of the proposed debris basin area in Super Creek canyon. Only four specimens of the species were found during the survey. No individuals were found up the canyon from the basin area or along the old road cut.

The single triple-ribbed milk-vetch (*Astragalus tricarinatus*) specimen was observed again this year in seed (see Photos), but no other specimens were found on the expansion area, the access roads or the proposed debris basin.

No other sensitive plant species were found during this spring survey (see Baseline Biological Survey for a complete discussion of potential sensitive plant taxa from the White Water and surrounding quadrangles, Biological Resource Specialists (2005).

Sensitive Wildlife

No sensitive wildlife species was observed during this spring follow-up survey on either the access roads, expansion area or the Super Creek canyon and the proposed debris basin (see the Baseline Biological Survey for a complete discussion of potential sensitive wildlife species from the White Water and surrounding quadrangles, Biological Resource Specialists (2005).

Recent surveys of the Whitewater Canyon (Konecny 2003 and Fisher 2003) below the expansion area have produced negative results as to the presence of the arroyo toad in the riparian portions of the canyon. The desert tortoise is a federally and State of California listed as a threatened species. The desert tortoise has been found in the wind farms east of the expansion area and south of the proposed debris basin occasionally, but no tortoise signs (i.e. scats, burrows, pallets, tracks, egg shells or live tortoises) were observed during the survey.

Wildlife Corridors

The Super Creek drainage probably functions as a wildlife corridor with its narrow channel and rather steep walls. To function as a corridor, wildlife species would have to be able to move from one area to another through this site.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The Super Creek drainage is a dry drainage that only carries surface water during rain storms, but because of the riparian species present in the drainage, it represents potential jurisdictional waters.

4.0 PROJECT IMPACTS

4.1 VEGETATION

If this project is approved, approximately 12.3 acres of native vegetation will be impacted, as the quarry is expanded. The loss of the vegetation is not expected to be significant, the lower ecotonal mixture of Riversidean Sage Scrub, Juniper Woodland, and Sonoran Creosote Bush Scrub community elements present on the site are common along the western edge of the Sonoran desert in Riverside County, but are rapidly being impacted by housing and wind energy development in the San Geronio Pass area. This area does not represent a sensitive community at this time. The potential loss will contribute to the cumulative impacts to these communities occurring as development continues in these areas. The loss of a portion of the approximately 2.75 acres of sparse Mulefat Scrub Riparian community elements in the Super Creek channel could be considered sensitive because of the rarity of riparian habitats in dry Southern California. All impacts to these community elements would be kept to a minimum as outlined in the required state and federal permits for such a development.

4.2 WILDLIFE

The majority of wildlife species currently utilizing the sites will be impacted by the potential mining of the site and construction of the debris basin. While some of the species could move into adjacent areas, construction and mining of the project would result in direct impacts to the existing wildlife through the heavy equipment operations.

4.3 SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Sensitive Plants

One sensitive plant taxon, white-bracted spineflower was identified near the Super Creek debris basin site, but no impacts to sensitive plants are expected if any construction in the basin is monitored to prevent any impacts to this species. The triple-ribbed milk-vetch specimen was found southwest of the current site in an area that was previously disturbed and should not be impacted by this proposed quarry expansion.

Sensitive Wildlife

Since no sensitive wildlife species was identified as using the sites, no impacts are expected. The possible use of the site as foraging habitat for prairie falcon and golden eagle would be disrupted, but the site represents a small acreage of loss in the larger expanse of the San Geronio Pass area.

Wildlife Corridors

Since the Super Creek drainage probably functions as a wildlife corridor as stated above, any design for a debris basin in the bottom of the Super Creek drainage would have to be done to allow for the potential movement of wildlife species through the area and not act as a blockage to this possible movement.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

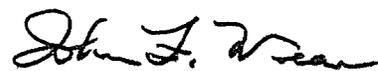
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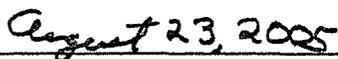
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Meetings and possible field visits should be conducted with the CDFG and the ACOE for the potential permitting of a debris basin in the Super Creek drainage. Since no federally listed species will be impacted by the proposed project, a Letter of No Effect could be placed in the project file for the proposed expansion.

6.0 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and the attached exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.





John F. Wear
Senior Biologist

Date

Biological Resource Specialists

7.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

Biological Compendium

**Vascular Plant Species Observed During the Spring Survey on the Proposed
Whitewater Rock and Supply Company's Super Creek Quarry Expansion, and
Potential Super Creek Debris Basin, Desert Hot Springs,
Riverside County, California**

Angiospermae

Dicotyledoneae

Amaranthaceae

Amaranth Family

Tidestromia oblongifolia

honey-sweet

Asteraceae

Sunflower Family

Baccharis salicifolia

mulefat

Malacothrix saxatilis

yellow-saucers

**Sonchus oleraceus*

common sow thistle

Stephanomeria pauciflora

wire-lettuce

var. *pauciflora*

Capparaceae

Caper Family

Isomeris arborea

bladderpod

Fabaceae

Legume Family

Acacia greggii

catclaw

Lotus scoparius

California broom

var. *brevialatus*

Hydrophyllaceae

Waterleaf Family

Phacelia distans

fat-leaf phacelia

Lamiaceae

Mint Family

Salazaria mexicana

bladder sage

Polemoniaceae

Phlox Family

Eriastrum eremicum

desert woollystar

ssp. *eremicum*

**Vascular Plant Species Observed During the Spring Survey on the Proposed
Whitewater Rock and Supply Company's Super Creek Quarry Expansion, and
Potential Super Creek Debris Basin, Desert Hot Springs,
Riverside County, California
(Continued)**

Polygonaceae

Chorizanthe xanti
var. *leucotheca*
Eriogonum wrightii
var. *nodosum*

Buckwheat Family

white-bracted spineflower
Wright's buckwheat

Scrophulariaceae

Mohavea confertiflora

Figwort Family

ghost flower

Simmondsiaceae

Simmondsia chinensis

Jojoba Family

jojoba

Salicaceae

Populus fremontii
ssp. *fremontii*

Willow Family

Fremont cottonwood

Tamaricaceae

**Tamarix pariflora*

Tamarisk Family

tamarisk

Monocotyledoneae

Poaceae

Achnatherum hymenoides
**Avena barbata*

Grass Family

Indian ricegrass
slender wild oat

* Denotes non-native species.

**Vertebrate Species Observed or Detected During the Spring Survey on the Proposed
Whitewater Rock and Supply Company's Super Creek Quarry Expansion, and
Potential Super Creek Debris Basin, Desert Hot Springs,
Riverside County, California**

Class: Aves

Birds

Fringillidae
House finch

Finches
Carpodacus mexicanus

APPENDIX B

Site Photos

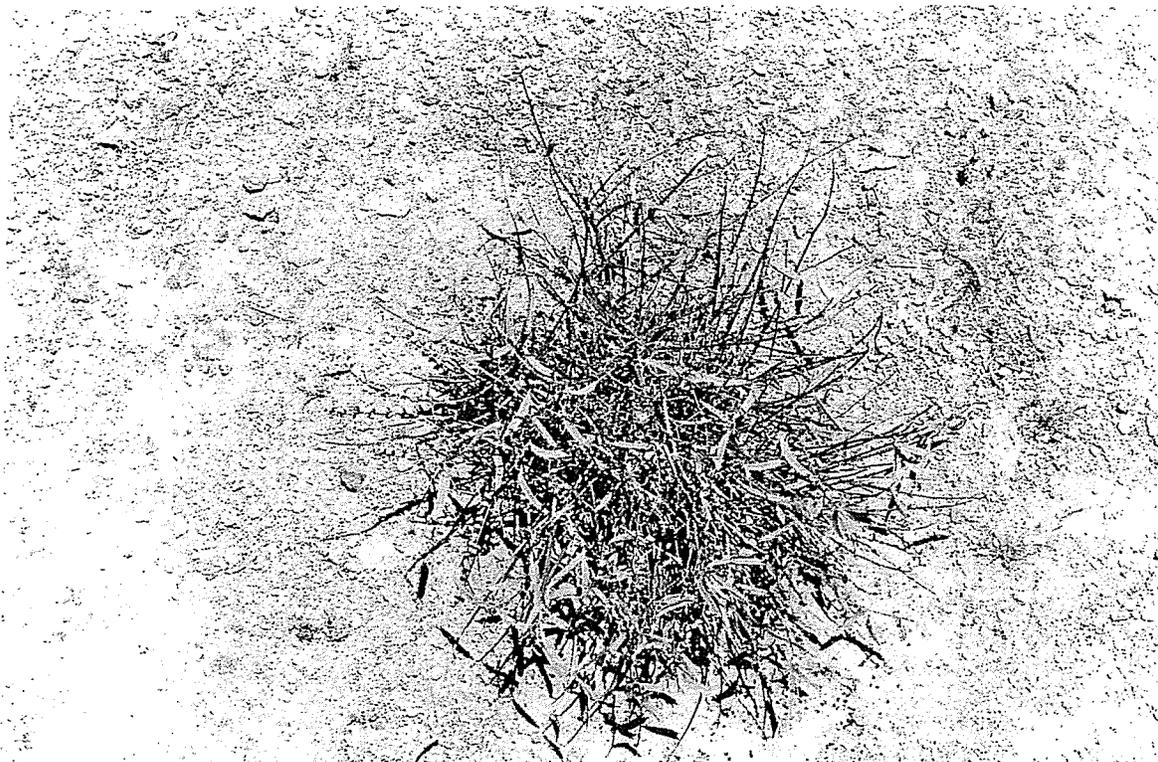


Photo #1: The triple-ribbed milk-vetch specimen, found last year, in seed this year.



Photo #2: At the southern edge of the potential debris basin looking up (north) the drainage. Shows the existing Mulefat Scrub vegetation and the mine debris slope beyond.



Photo #3: At the upper end of the proposed basin site looking south. Shows the channel and the Mulefat Scrub.

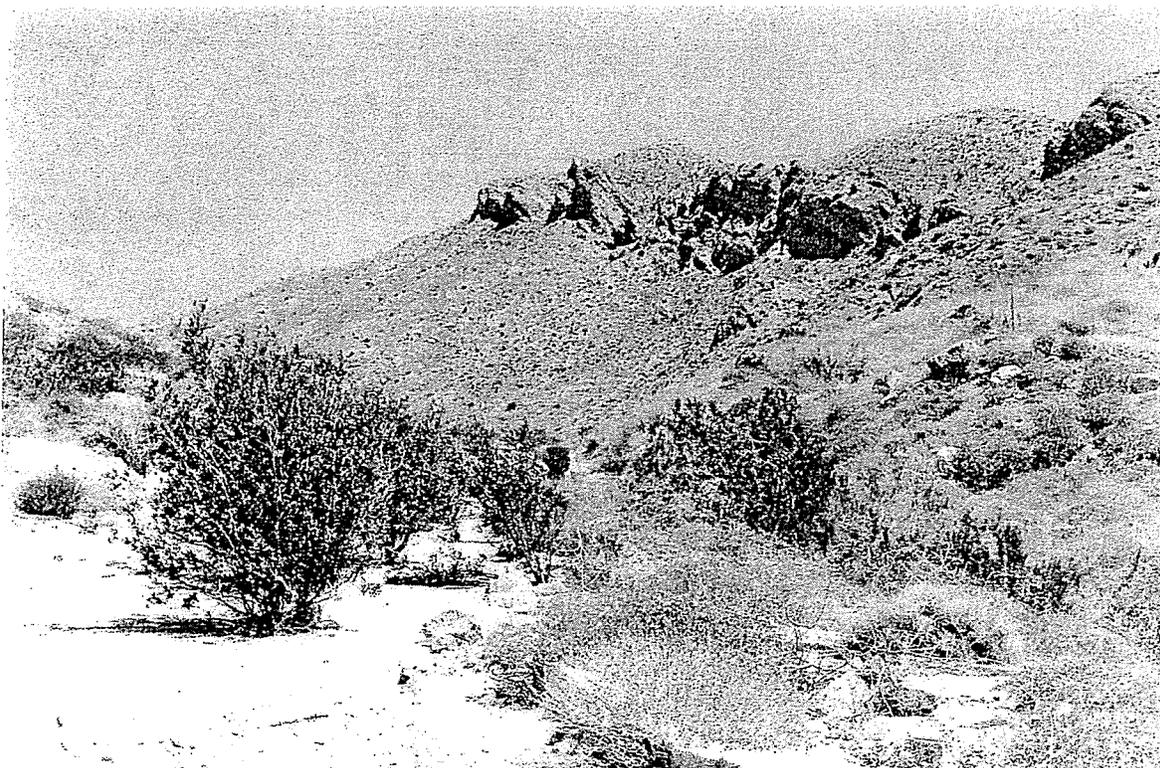


Photo #4: At the upper end of the proposed basin site, looking north. Shows the existing vegetation and the canyon beyond.

APPENDIX C

Sensitive Species Listings

Table 1 Sensitive Species Listings

Federal Listings

FE = Federally Listed Endangered.
 FT = Federally Listed Threatened.
 C = A Candidate for Federal listing. Enough data are on file to support a Federal listing.
 FSC = Federal Species of Concern
 MNBMC = Migratory Nongame Bird of Management Concern

State Listings

SE = State Listed Endangered.
 ST = State Listed Threatened.
 CSC = California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) "Species of Special Concern".
 CFP = State Fully Protected Species
 CP = State Protected
 CR = State Rare

Other Lists

R5 = USDA Forest Service Region 5 Sensitive
 SBNF = San Bernardino National Forest Sensitive
 ABL = Audubon Bluelist
 ASC = Audubon Special Concern
 ALC = Audubon Local Concern

CNPS Lists

List 1B: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere.
 List 2: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
 List 3: Plants about which we need more information - a review list.
 List 4: Plants of limited distribution - a watch list.

CNPS R-E-D CODE

R (Rarity)

- 1 - Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time.
- 2 - Occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population.
- 3 - Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported..

E (Endangerment)

- 1 - Not endangered.
- 2 - Endangered in a portion of its range.
- 3 - Endangered throughout its range.

D (Distribution)

- 1 - More or less widespread outside California.
- 2 - Rare outside California.
- 3 - Endemic to California.