

- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan

Impacts to biological resources are determined on a case-by-case and site-by-site basis as resources vary by location and level of existing development. The General Plan Update EIR is considered to be a program-level analysis meaning that a project or site-specific analysis has not been completed for properties across the City. As such, individual, future proposed development projects will undergo specific environmental review, including any biological analysis that may be necessary.

■ General Plan Policies that Mitigate Potential Impacts on Biological Resources

Policies and goals from the Community Development, Natural Resources, and Safety and Noise Chapters that would mitigate potential impacts on biological resources include the following. All General Plan policies are followed by a set of numbers in parentheses. These numbers reference applicable measures that will be undertaken by the City to implement the policy.

- Policy LU-4.2 Incorporation of Natural Features.** Integrate natural scenic features, such as mature trees, rock outcroppings, watercourses, and views into project design, except where infeasible for public safety. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-3, LU-4, LU-7, LU-8, LU-11, LU-18, NR-1, NR-2, NR-3*)
- Policy LU-4.4 Hillside Development.** Locate and design development to maintain the existing visual character of the hillsides as a natural backdrop. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-3, LU-4, LU-7, LU-8, LU-11, LU-18, NR-1, NR-2, NR-3*)
- Policy LU-4.5 Hillside Grading.** Minimize terrain disruption and design grading using generally accepted principles of civil engineering with the objective to blend the project into the natural topography. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-3, LU-4, LU-7, LU-18, NR-2, NR-3*)
- Policy LU-6.3 Creeks and Natural Drainages.** Maintain and improve the form and health of resources and habitat in the City's natural drainages. Explore restoration of those that have been degraded or channelized, such as the Arroyo Simi, as feasible, while continuing to maintain stormwater conveyance and property protection requirements. (*Imp A-1, A-2, A-3, LU-1, LU-2, LU-3, LU-4, LU-18, NR-2*)
- Policy NR-1.1 Open Space Preservation and Buffer Zone.** Protect, conserve, and maintain the open space, hillside, and canyon areas that provide a buffer zone around the City's urban form, serve as designated habitat for sensitive species, and provide recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1*)
- Policy NR-1.2 Slope Preservation.** In open space areas, uses requiring grading or other alteration of land shall maintain the natural topographic character and ensure that downstream properties and watercourses are not adversely affected by siltation or chemical runoff. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, NR-3*)
- Policy NR-1.3 Partnerships to Fund Open Space Protection.** Establish partnerships with public and private conservation agencies such as the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and

Conservation Authority, and the Nature Conservancy, adjoining cities, and non-governmental organizations to maximize funding for open space land acquisition and preservation opportunities. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1, NR-13*)

- Policy NR-1.4** **Tierra Rejada Greenbelt.** Maintain the Tierra Rejada Greenbelt located to the west of the Simi Valley City limits, which serves as an important visual, biological, and open space resource separating and defining a distinct edge for urbanized development. Additionally, support the County of Ventura efforts to reduce development density within the Greenbelt. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1, NR-13*)
- Policy NR-1.5** **Development Regulations.** Amend the Development Code as necessary to provide effective preservation of open space areas. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-7, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1, NR-4*)
- Policy NR-1.6** **Open Space for Wildlife Habitat.** Preserve open space in its natural form. Prioritize preservation of open space that can support Sensitive, Endangered, and Protected species, as defined by the county, state, and federal governments, as part of a contiguous system that allows the movement of wildlife from one habitat area to another. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1*)
- Policy NR-1.7** **Tools to Preserve Open Space.** Maximize the protection of open space through the following actions:
- City land use, development and zoning regulations
 - Fee-title dedications associated with new private developments
 - Mitigation requirements for loss of habitat areas
 - Development agreements that maintain open space in private developments
 - Establishment of conservation easements
 - Easement acquisition that retains open space
 - Tax sale, donation, life estate, eminent domain, and leaseback arrangements (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-7, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1, NR-2, NR-4, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-1.8** **Density Transfer.** In lieu of providing open space, allow concentrated development and limit development to low density residential or low intensity recreational uses for more effective protection of open space and environmental resources. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-7, LU-18, NR-4, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-1.9** **Restoration of Degraded Areas.** Require replanting of vegetation and remediation of associated erosion in conjunction with requested land use approvals in hillside areas. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-18, NR-2, NR-3, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-1.10** **Restoration of Landfill Areas.** Work with the County of Ventura to ensure that landfill areas are restored to the most natural state possible upon termination of landfill operations in the City's area of interest. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, NR-13*)
- Policy NR-1.11** **Arroyo Simi.** Enhance and conserve the Arroyo Simi as a natural resource for scenic and passive enjoyment by the community. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, NR-1, NR-8*)

- Policy NR-2.1** **Tree Preservation.** Encourage the preservation of trees and native vegetation in development projects. Require that new development utilize creative land planning techniques to preserve any existing healthy, protected trees to the greatest extent possible. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-7, LU-18, NR-4, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-2.2** **Wildlife Crossings.** Require the installation of wildlife crossing structures by developers or as part of public improvement projects. Minimize artificial night lighting in the vicinity of wildlife crossing structures and adjacent wild lands. Install appropriate wildlife fencing and encourage the growth of woody native vegetation leading up to crossing structures to provide cover and direction and to encourage the use of the crossing structures by wildlife. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-18, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-2.3** **Agency Collaboration.** Work with federal, state, and local agencies, such as Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, National Park Service, and other organizations, for guidance on the restoration of riparian communities and vegetative cover at passageways. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-18, NR-13*)
- Policy NR-2.4** **Habitat Connectivity.** Ensure that projects within areas identified as regional wildlife corridors are designed and constructed so as to preserve the ability of wildlife to travel through the region. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-7, LU-18, NR-4*)
- Policy NR-2.5** **Wetland and Sensitive Habitat Mitigation.** Conserve wildlife ecosystems, wetlands, and sensitive habitat areas in the following order of protection preference: (1) avoidance; (2) on-site mitigation, and (3) off-site mitigation. Where avoidance is not possible, require provision of replacement habitat through restoration and/or habitat creation to mitigate the loss of wetland and/or sensitive habitat. Off-site replacement habitat should be at a minimum of 5:1 replacement ratio or as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-7, LU-18, NR-2, NR-4, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-2.6** **Site Assessments.** Require assessment by a qualified professional for development applications that may adversely affect sensitive biological or wetland resources, including occurrences of special-status species, occurrences of sensitive natural communities, and important wildlife areas and movement corridors. Ensure that individual projects incorporate measures to reduce impacts to special-status species, sensitive natural communities, and important wildlife areas and movement corridors according to Simi Valley's environmental review process. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-18, NR-2, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-2.7** **Projects Outside the Valley Floor.** Design projects outside the valley floor to include measures that avoid isolating areas of wildlife habitat from larger habitat areas. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-2, LU-18, NR-2, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-2.8** **Compatibility of Trails to Habitat.** Require developers or agencies to align or relocate trails to avoid impacting sensitive habitats such as wetlands and areas where endangered species are present. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-18, NR-5, NR-13*)

- Policy NR-3.3** Location and Design of Developments. Require development within visually sensitive areas to minimize impacts to scenic resources and to preserve unique or special visual features, particularly in hillside areas, through the following:
- Creative site planning
 - Integration of natural features into the project
 - Appropriate scale, materials, and design to complement the surrounding natural landscape
 - Clustering of development so as to preserve open space vistas and natural features
 - Minimal disturbance of topography
 - Creation of contiguous open space networks (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-1, LU-18, NR-5*)
- Policy NR-5.2** **Protect Open Space Areas and Water Resources.** Conserve undeveloped open space areas and drainage channels for the purpose of protecting water resources in the City's watershed. For new development and post-development runoff, control sources of pollutants and improve and maintain urban runoff water quality through stormwater protection measures consistent with the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-8, LU-18, IU-6, NR-1, NR-10*)
- Policy N-3.1** **Protection from Stationary Noise Sources.** Continue to enforce interior and exterior noise standards to ensure that sensitive noise receptors are not exposed to excessive noise levels from stationary noise sources, such as machinery, equipment, fans, and air conditioning equipment. (*Imp A-1, A-2, LU-12, LU-18*)

■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

The City is not located within an area covered by any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or any other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Implementation of the General Plan Update would not conflict with any provisions related to such plans and would result in *no impact*. No further discussion of this effect is required.

■ Less-Than-Significant Impacts

Impact 4.4-1 Implementation of the General Plan Update could result in direct and indirect impacts to sensitive species; however, these impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through the implementation of General Plan policies and compliance with relevant local, state, and federal regulations. This is a *less-than-significant* impact.

The General Plan Update contains policies regarding future land use and development addressed from a Citywide perspective, with the majority of the planned land use changes limited to 12 primary Study Areas. These Study Areas include properties that are vacant, those that offer opportunities for infill and intensification, and those with economically or physically obsolete development. Please see Figure 4.4-5 (Areas of Potential Land Use Change), which illustrates the location of the Study Areas. New development under the General Plan Update could occur in other underutilized or vacant parcels in the