

essential for the primary biological needs of foraging, nesting, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, roosting, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering (Atwood 1990). Primary constituent elements are provided in undeveloped areas, which support or have the potential to support, through natural successional processes (e.g., post-fire recovery), various types of sage scrub or chaparral, grassland, and riparian habitats where they may be utilized for biological needs such as breeding, foraging, or dispersal (Atwood *et al.* 1998, Campbell *et al.* 1998). Primary constituent elements associated with the biological needs of dispersal are also found in undeveloped areas that provide or could provide connectivity or linkage between larger core areas, including open space and ruderal (weedy areas that contain introduced plant species) disturbed areas that may receive only periodic use. Probable dispersing individuals have been documented in vegetation dominated by such species as *Brassica* spp. (wild mustard), annual grasses, *Salsola tragus* (russian thistle), *Baccharis salicifolia* (mule fat), *Salix* spp. (willow), and *Tamarix* spp. (salt cedar) (Campbell *et al.* 1998). Some of these species may also be used seasonally by territorial birds because coastal sage scrub

dessicates during the summer drought (Campbell *et al.* 1998).

Primary constituent elements include, but are not limited to, the following plant communities: Venturan coastal sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, Riversidean sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, and coastal sage-chaparral scrub (Holland 1986, Kirkpatrick and Hutchinson 1977, Westman 1983). Based upon dominant species, these communities have been further divided into series such as black sage, brittlebush, California buckwheat, California buckwheat-white sage, California encelia, California sagebrush, California sagebrush-black sage, California sagebrush-California buckwheat, coast prickly-pear, mixed sage, purple sage, scalebroom, and white sage (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995). Dominant species within these plant communities include *Artemisia californica*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Encelia californica*, *Salvia mellifera*, *S. apiana*, and *S. leucophylla*. Other commonly occurring plants include *Isocoma menziesii* (coast goldenbush), *Viguiera laciniata* (San Diego sunflower), *Baccharis pilularis* (coyote brush), *Baccharis sarothroides* (broom baccharis), *Mimulus aurantiacus* (bush monkeyflower), *Sambucus mexicana*

(Mexican elderberry), *Isomeris arborea* (bladderpod), *Lotus scoparius*, *Malosma laurina* (laurel sumac), *Rhus integrifolia* (lemonadeberry), and *Rhus ovata* (sugarbush). Species such as *Lycium* spp. (boxthorn), *Euphorbia misera* (cliff spurge), *Simmondsia chinensis* (jojoba), and *Opuntia littoralis* (prickly pear), *O. prolifera* (cholla), and *Ferocactus viridescens* (coast barrel cactus), and *Dudleya* spp. (live-forever), are represented in maritime succulent scrub, coast prickly-pear scrub, and southern coastal bluff scrubs. In areas of coastal influence, chamise chaparral has also been documented to support breeding pairs (Campbell *et al.* 1998). Mesic sites dominated by *Baccharis salicifolia* and other *Baccharis* species such as *Baccharis pilularis* and *Baccharis sarothroides* may also support breeding pairs (Campbell *et al.* 1998).

(3) Critical habitat does not include lands outside of existing designated reserves, preserves, or other conservation lands where incidental take has been authorized, as of the date of this rule, for the coastal California gnatcatcher under section 7(a)(2) and 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act because these lands are not essential to the conservation of the species.

(4) **Note:** Index Map follows: