

### 3.5.2 BIOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY

This section, summarized from Robert A. Hamilton's 9 October 1995 biological report (Appendix C to the Master Plan) discusses planning constraints posed by sensitive biological resources, and opportunities to restore strategic habitat areas that are presently degraded. The Biosensitivity Map shows 1) areas of high, moderate and low biological sensitivity, and 2) areas of low biological sensitivity with good restoration potential.

#### **Biological Constraints**

A biological constraint is defined as an existing condition which may limit the options for park planning due to the desire or requirement for preservation of all or portions of the existing biological setting.

#### **Areas of High Biological Sensitivity**

Some portions of the park are considered to be highly sensitive based on:

- 1) federal, state or local laws regulating their development,
- 2) plant communities with limited global distributions,
- 3) and/or: the habitat requirements of sensitive plants or animals known or expected to occur there.

The following communities are considered to be of high biological sensitivity:

**Alluvial Scrub** (Pacific Pocket Mouse Habitat)

**Saltbush Scrub** (Occupied by Nesting California Gnatcatchers)

**Vernal Pools and Associated Grasslands** (Restoration is in progress)

#### **Areas of Moderate Biological Sensitivity**

Generally, plant communities in the park are considered to be moderately sensitive if they

- 1) are subject to federal, state or local laws regulating their development,
- 2) and/or have not been disturbed to the point where only ruderal species predominate.

In Fairview Park, virtually all areas designated as being of moderate sensitivity have good potential for habitat restoration/expansion.

The following communities are considered to be of moderate biological sensitivity:

**Annual Grassland (West of Placentia Avenue)**

**Coastal Bluff Scrub - Disturbed**

**Habitat Restoration Sites**

**Ruderal** (Some Areas)( Due to the presence of sensitive species)

**Saltbush Scrub** (Unoccupied by Nesting California Gnatcatchers)

**Walnut Scrub**

**Willow Scrub** (Due to their very small area)

