Biological Resources Assessment

±10-Acre Placer Creek Apartments Project
City of Rocklin, California

Prepared for:

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Executive Summary

Foothill Associates' biologists conducted a biological survey of the Placer Creek Apartments project site located within the City of Rocklin, California. The project site is located immediately south of Whitney Ranch Parkway and east of University Avenue, approximately 3.9 miles northwest of downtown Rocklin (**Figure 1**). The purpose of this document is to summarize the general biological resources on the site, to assess the suitability of the site to support special-status species and sensitive habitat types, and to provide recommendations for regulatory permitting or further analysis that may be required prior to development activities occurring on the site.

The area surveyed includes the approximately 10-acre project footprint (Study Area). The Study Area is surrounded by paved roads, residential development, construction of mixed-use development, and undeveloped land.

Known or potential biological constraints in the Study Area include the following:

- Potential nesting and foraging habitat for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*); and
- Potential foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the findings of a biological resources assessment completed for the approximate 10-acre Study Area located within the City of Rocklin, California. This document addresses the onsite physical features, as well as plant communities present and the common plant and wildlife species occurring, or potentially occurring, in the Study Area. Furthermore, the suitability of habitats to support special-status species and sensitive habitats are analyzed and recommendations are provided for any regulatory permitting or further analysis required prior to development activities occurring on the site.

1.1. Project Description

The Placer Creek Apartments Project is a proposed 232-unit multi-family apartment complex. The proposed development will include 3-story high buildings, a club house complex, parking areas, and other associated buildings.

1.2. Site History

The site has remained undeveloped for several years, and historical uses include ranching. To date the majority of the site is undeveloped, and is being used as a borrow site to house soil stockpiles from the adjacent sites associated with the Placer Creek Corporate Center (PCCC) Project. Since 2007, several construction projects have been completed adjacent to the site, which include the development of Whitney Ranch Parkway to the north, the University Avenue Alignment Project to the west, and the Spring Valley Residential development to the south.

1.3. Project Regulatory Background

This site is part of the overall new development for the Placer Creek Corporate Center (PCCC) Project, which also includes the University Avenue Alignment Project. Therefore, the Placer Creek Apartments Project is included under the permits received for the PCCC Project.

The PCCC site was originally delineated in September 2006 by Gibson & Skordal, LLC and then revised in April 2013 by Foothill Associates. On August 17, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued two Nationwide Permits (NWP 29 and 39), for the PCCC Project (SPK-2005-00741). The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued a 401 Water Quality Certification Amendment for the PCCC Project on December 17, 2014 (WDID# 5A31CR00378a). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a corresponding Biological Opinion (BO) (81420-2010-F-0176-2) and 2012 BO Amendment (81420-2010-F-0176-2). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) determined that proposed development was not subject to Fish and Game Code Section 1602 (Notification No. 1600-2010-0038-R2).

On November 12, 2015, the Corps authorized a Modification to the NWP 29 and 39 (SPK-2005-00741) for the PCCC Project, due to delayed construction. All wetlands covered under these NWP permits were filled and all work associated with the Corps permit was completed by September 2017.

2.0 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Federal, State, and local environmental laws, regulations, and policies relevant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process are summarized below. The CEQA significance criteria are also included in this section.

2.1. Federal Regulations

2.1.1. Federal Endangered Species Act

The U.S. Congress passed the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) in 1973 to protect those species that are endangered or threatened with extinction. FESA is intended to operate in conjunction with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to help protect the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend.

FESA prohibits the "take" of endangered or threatened wildlife species. "Take" is defined to include harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting wildlife species or any attempt to engage in such conduct (FESA Section 3 [(3) (19)]). Harm is further defined to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns (50 CFR §17.3). Harass is defined as actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns (50 CFR §17.3). Actions that result in take can result in civil or criminal penalties.

In the context of the proposed project, FESA consultation with the USFWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would be initiated if development resulted in take of a threatened or endangered species or if issuance of a Section 404 permit or other federal agency action could result in take of an endangered species or adversely modify critical habitat of such a species.

2.1.2. Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Raptors (birds of prey), migratory birds, and other avian species are protected by a number of State and federal laws. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the killing, possessing, or trading of migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Interior.

2.1.3. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles with limited exceptions. Under the Eagle Act, it is a violation to "*take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, transport, export or import, at any time or in any manner, any bald eagle commonly known as the American eagle, or golden eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg, thereof*." Take is defined to include pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, and disturb. Disturb is further defined in 50 CFR Part 22.3 as "*to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available (1) injury to*

an eagle, (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior."

2.2. State Jurisdiction

2.2.1. California Endangered Species Act

The State of California enacted the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 1984. CESA is similar to the FESA but pertains to State-listed endangered and threatened species. CESA requires state agencies to consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), when preparing CEQA documents. The purpose is to ensure that the State lead agency actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction, or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of those species, if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available (Fish and Game Code §2080). CESA directs agencies to consult with CDFW on projects or actions that could affect listed species, directs CDFW to determine whether jeopardy would occur and allows CDFW to identify "reasonable and prudent alternatives" to the project consistent with conserving the species. CESA allows CDFW to authorize exceptions to the State's prohibition against take of a listed species if the "take" of a listed species is incidental to carrying out an otherwise lawful project that has been approved under CEQA (Fish & Game Code §2081).

2.2.2. California Department of Fish and Game Codes

A number of species have been designated "fully protected" species under Sections 5515, 5050, 3511, and 4700 of the Fish and Game Code, but are not listed as endangered (Section 2062) or threatened (Section 2067) species under CESA. Except for take related to scientific research, all take of fully protected species is prohibited. The California Fish and Game Code defines take as "*hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.*" Additionally, Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits the killing of birds or the destruction of bird nests.

2.2.3. Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA), enacted in 1977, allows the Fish and Game Commission to designate plants as rare or endangered. There are 64 species, subspecies, and varieties of plants protected under the NPPA. The NPPA prohibits take of endangered or rare native plants, with some exceptions for agricultural and nursery operations and emergencies. Vegetation removal from canals, roads, and other sites, changes in land use, and certain other situations require proper advance notification to CDFW.

2.3. Jurisdictional Waters

2.3.1. Federal Jurisdiction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). "Discharges of fill material"

is defined as the addition of fill material into waters of the U.S., including, but not limited to the following: placement of fill that is necessary for the construction of any structure, or impoundment requiring rock, sand, dirt, or other material for its construction; site-development fills for recreational, industrial, commercial, residential, and other uses; causeways or road fills; fill for intake and outfall pipes and subaqueous utility lines [33 C.F.R. §328.2(f)].

Waters of the U.S. include a range of wet environments such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, and wet meadows. Boundaries between jurisdictional waters and uplands are determined in a variety of ways depending on which type of waters is present. Methods for delineating wetlands and non-tidal waters are described below.

- Wetlands are defined as "*those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions*" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(b)]. Presently, to be a wetland, a site must exhibit three wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology existing under the "normal circumstances" for the site.
- The lateral extent of non-tidal waters is determined by delineating the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) [33 C.F.R. §328.4(c)(1)]. The OHWM is defined by the Corps as "*that line on shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas*" [33 C.F.R. §328.3(e)].

An aquatic feature is determined to be a water of the U.S. based on nexus with a traditionally navigable water pursuant to the Supreme Court's decision in the consolidated cases Rapanos v. United States and Carabell v. United States (126 S. Ct. 2208) and agency guidance subsequent to this decision. Under these rules, the Corps asserts jurisdiction over wetlands adjacent to traditional navigable waters, relatively permanent non-navigable tributaries (i.e., waters that have a continuous flow at least three months out of the year), and wetlands that abut relatively permanent tributaries. The Corps determines jurisdiction over waters that are non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent, and wetlands adjacent to these tributaries, by making a determination whether such waters "significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other jurisdictional waters more readily understood as "navigable." Finally, the Corps generally does not consider the following to be "waters of the United States": swales or erosional features (e.g., gullies, small washes characterized by low volume, infrequent or short duration flow) and ditches "wholly in and draining only uplands…which do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water." Navigable waters of the United States are defined as waters that have been used in the past, are now used, or are susceptible to use as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce up to the head of navigation.

2.3.2. State Jurisdiction

Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Discharges of fill or waste material to waters of the State are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through its Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) under Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (contained in the California Water Code). All waters of the U.S. are also considered waters of the State. In addition, other aquatic features that are not subject to Corps' jurisdiction, such as roadside ditches or isolated wetlands, may be considered waters of the State. This determination will be made by RWQCB staff on a case-by-case basis.

Section 401 of the CWA requires an applicant to obtain "water quality certification" to ensure compliance with State water quality standards before certain federal licenses or permits may be issued. Section 13260(a) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires any person discharging waste, including dredged or fill material, or proposing to discharge waste, other than to a community sewer system, within any region that could affect the quality of the waters of the State (all surface and subsurface waters) to file a report of waste discharge. The permits subject to Section 401 include CWA Section 404 permits issued by the Corps. Waste discharge requirements under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act were typically waived for projects that required certification. Discharges to waters of the State that are not subject to a CWA Section 404 permit rely on the report of waste discharge process.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The CDFW is a trustee agency that has jurisdiction under Section 1600 *et seq.* of the California Fish and Game Code. Under Sections 1602 and 1603, a private party must notify CDFW if a proposed project will "*substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the department, or use any material from the streambeds…except when the department has been notified pursuant to Section 1601.*" Additionally, CDFW asserts jurisdiction over native riparian habitat adjacent to aquatic features, including native trees over 4-inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). If an existing fish or wildlife resource may be substantially adversely affected by the activity, CDFW may propose reasonable measures that will allow protection of those resources. If these measures are agreeable to the parties involved, they may enter into an agreement with CDFW identifying the approved activities and associated mitigation measures. Generally, CDFW recommends submitting an application for a Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) for any work done within the lateral limit of water flow or the edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is greater.

2.4. CEQA Significance

Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines encourages local agencies to develop and publish the thresholds that the agency uses in determining the significance of environmental effects caused by projects under its review. However, agencies may also rely upon the guidance provided by the expanded Initial Study Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Appendix G provides examples of impacts that would normally be considered significant. Based on these

examples, impacts to biological resources would normally be considered significant if the project would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS;
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites;
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; and
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan.

An evaluation of whether or not an impact on biological resources would be substantial must consider both the resource itself and how that resource fits into a regional or local context. Substantial impacts would be those that would diminish, or result in the loss of, an important biological resource, or those that would obviously conflict with local, State, or federal resource conservation plans, goals, or regulations. Impacts are sometimes locally important but not significant according to CEQA. The reason for this is that although the impacts would result in an adverse alteration of existing conditions, they would not substantially diminish, or result in the permanent loss of, an important resource on a population-wide or region-wide basis.

2.4.1. California Native Plant Society

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) maintains a rank of plant species native to California that have low population numbers, limited distribution, or are otherwise threatened with extinction. This information is published in the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*. Potential impacts to populations of CNPS-ranked plants receive consideration under CEQA review. The following identifies the definitions of the CNPS ranks:

- Rank 1A: Plants presumed Extinct in California
- Rank 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
- Rank 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere

- Rank 3: Plants about which we need more information – A Review List
- Rank 4: Plants of limited distribution – A Watch List

All plants appearing on CNPS Rank 1 or 2 are considered to meet CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 criteria. While only some of the plants ranked 3 and 4 meet the definitions of threatened or endangered species, the CNPS recommends that all Rank 3 and Rank 4 plants be evaluated for consideration under CEQA.

2.4.2. California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Concern

Some additional fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species may receive consideration by CDFW and lead agencies during the CEQA process, in addition to species that are formally listed under FESA and CESA or are fully protected. These species are included on the *Special Animals List*, which is maintained by CDFW. This list tracks species in California whose numbers, reproductive success, or habitat may be in decline. In addition to "Species of Special Concern" (SSC), the *Special Animals List* includes species that are tracked in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), but warrant no legal protection. These species are identified as "California Special Animals" (CSA).

2.5. City of Rocklin General Plan

2.5.1. General Plan

In addition to the federal and State regulations described above, the *City of Rocklin General Plan* (General Plan) identifies goals, objectives, and policies to provide further protection to biological resources within the City's limits (City of Rocklin 2012). The General Plan's *Chapter IV (B): Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element* sets a number of goals to protect, restore valuable, significant, or unique habitat areas. Applicable General Plan goals and policies are summarized below.

Goal for the Preservation of Open Space Land for Natural Resources: To designate, protect, and conserve open space land in a manner that protects natural resources and balances needs for the economic, physical, and social development of the City.

<u>Policies for the Preservation of Open Space for Natural Resources</u>

OCR-1 To encourage the protection of open space areas, natural resource areas, hilltops, and hillsides from encroachment or destruction through the use of conservation easements, natural resource buffers, building setbacks, or other measures.

OCR-5 To utilize CEQA as the primary regulatory tool for identifying and mitigating, where feasible, impacts to open space and natural resources when reviewing proposed development projects.

OCR-6 To look for opportunities to interconnect open space and natural areas to accommodate wildlife movement and sustain ecosystems and biodiversity.

OCR-7 To consult with other jurisdictions concerning open space planning programs, including the County's Placer Legacy program and other similar regional programs, to the extent feasible.

Goal for the Conservation, Development, and Utilization of Natural Resources: Conserve and protect natural resources while permitting their managed use, consistent with city, State, and federal requirements.

Policies for the Conservation, Development, and Utilization of Natural Resources

OCR-39 To require the protection of wetlands, vernal pools, and rare, threatened, and endangered species of both plants and animals through avoidance of these resources, or implementation of appropriate mitigation measures where avoidance is not feasible, as determined by the City of Rocklin.

OCR-40 To require compliance with the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts and the Clean Water Act as conditions of development project approval.

OCR-41 To recognize that onsite protection of natural resources may not always be feasible and that offsite methods, such as use of mitigation banks, may be used.

OCR-42 To encourage projects to be designed in a manner that protects heritage oak trees and other botanically unique vegetation designated to be retained.

OCR-43 To mitigate for removal of oak trees in accordance with the City of Rocklin's Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance, or for projects located in zones not directly addressed by the Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance mitigation measures, on a project-by-project basis through the planning review and entitlement process.

OCR-45 To encourage development projects to incorporate natural resources such as creeks, steep hillside, and quarries in private but restricted ownership that provides the protection of the natural resource and also allows for access by the public, where appropriate.

OCR-46 To participate as appropriate in regional approach to the management of drainage basins and flood plains with regional agencies such as the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

OCR-48 To promote, where appropriate, the joint use of creeks for flood control, open space, conservation of natural resources, and limited recreation activities.

OCR-49 To minimize the degradation of water quality through use of erosion control plans and Best Management Practices.

OCR-50 To maintain a grading ordinance that minimizes erosion and siltation of creeks and other watercourses.

OCR-51 Evaluate development along stream channels to ensure that it does not create any of the following effects in a significant manner: reduced stream capacity, increased erosion or deterioration of the channel.

OCR-57 To encourage urban design and form that conserves land and other resources.

OCR-60 To work with the Placer County Water Agency to ensure that available methods and techniques to conserve potable water supplies are applied in Rocklin.

3.0 METHODS

Available information pertaining to the natural resources of the region was reviewed. All references reviewed for this assessment are listed in the **References** section. In addition to previously prepared biological reports, the following site-specific information was reviewed:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2018. *California Natural Diversity Data Base* (*Citrus Heights, Folsom, Gold Hill, Lincoln, Pleasant Grove, Rio Linda, Rocklin, Roseville,* and *Sheridan* quadrangles U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series quadrangles), Sacramento, CA. [Accessed on 01/02/2018];
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2018. *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (online edition, v8-03 0.39) (*Citrus Heights, Folsom, Gold Hill, Lincoln, Pleasant Grove, Rio Linda, Rocklin, Roseville,* and *Sheridan* quadrangles). [Accessed on 01/02/2018];
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2018. *Information for Planning and Conservation* (IPaC) *Trust Resource Report*: *Placer Creek Apartments Project, City of Rocklin, California.* [Accessed on 01/02/2018];
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 1980. *Soil Survey of Placer County – Western Part, California*. USDA, NRCS, in cooperation with the Regents of the University of California (Agricultural Experiment Station);
- USDA, NRCS. 2018. *Web Soil Survey*. Available online at: http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov. Accessed [01/03/2018]; and
- U.S. Geological Survey. 2011. *Roseville, California*. 7.5-minute series topographic quadrangle. United States Department of Interior.

Existing information was reviewed and the results of the records search and five-mile radius California Natural Diversity Database (CNNDB) query were summarized in a table (**Appendix A**). The Study Area was systematically surveyed on foot with binoculars to ensure total search coverage, with special attention given to identifying those portions of the Study Area with the potential for supporting special-status species and sensitive habitats. During surveys, the biologist recorded plant and animal species observed (**Appendix B**), as well as characterized biological communities occurring onsite. The potential for each species identified in the records search to occur in the Study Area was determined based on the site surveys, soils, and species-specific information.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1. Site Location and Description

The Study Area is located in the City of Rocklin, approximately 3.9 miles northwest of the downtown area. The Study Area is located in Township 11 North, Range 6 East, Section 3 of the *Roseville* 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle. The approximate location of the center of the Study Area is 38° 49' 45.442" North, 121° 17' 35.562" West (**Figure 1**). The Study Area consists of disturbed and developed habitats. The surrounding land uses include Whitney Ranch Parkway to the north, University Avenue to the west, undeveloped land to the east, and residential development to the south.

4.2. Physical Features

4.2.1. Topography and Drainage

The topography of the Study Area is generally level with elevations ranging from approximately 155 feet (40 meters) above mean sea level (MSL) to 175 feet (42 meters) above MSL. There is a man-made berm that extends along the eastern border of the Study Area and various sized soil stockpiles have been placed in the center of the site associated with adjacent development. The hydrologic regime on the site is predominantly seasonal storm water runoff and direct precipitation, which primarily falls between November and March.

4.2.2. Soils

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has mapped one soil unit within the Study Area (**Figure 2**): **Exchequer-Rock Outcrop Complex, 2 to 30 Percent Slopes**. The general characteristics and properties associated with this soil unit is described below (USDA, NRCS 1980 and 2018).

- **(145) Exchequer-Rock Outcrop Complex, 2 to 30 Percent Slopes**: This soil consists of somewhat excessively drained soils that occur ridges at elevations ranging from 400 to 4,000 feet above MSL. The permeability is low to high and the available water holding capacity is very low (about 1.2 inches). This soil has parent material consisting of residuum weathered from volcanic breccia. This soil is composed of 60 percent of Exchequer and similar soils, 15 percent Rock Outcrop, 10 percent Inks, and 15 percent Unnamed. Overall, the hydric soils list for Placer County does not identify this soil type as hydric; however, two unnamed minor components are rated as hydric soils associated with drainageways and depressions (USDA, NRCS 1980 and 2018).

4.3. Terrestrial Vegetation Communities

One major biological community, disturbed/developed, occurs within the Study Area. A comprehensive list of plants and wildlife observed within the Study Area is provided in **Appendix B**. The location and extent of the biological community and proposed project design impacts are depicted in **Figure 3**. Representative site photographs are included in **Appendix C**.

4.3.1. Disturbed/Developed

A total of approximate 10 acres of disturbed/developed areas were mapped within the Study Area, and all 10 acres of the site will be impacted by the proposed development. This site has been graded and soil removed to be used for adjacent projects associated with the PCCC Project and adjacent residential developments. Also, as mentioned in **Section 1.3**, the Study Area had been previously disturbed and wetlands filled under the Corps Section 404 Permit for the PCCC Project.

Currently, the Study Area is being used as a borrow site, and several large mounds of soil are being stockpiled in the center of the Study Area. The Study Area also contains a recently constructed concrete-lined v-ditch that runs west to east in the southern portion of the Study Area. The Study Area also includes a stabilized entrance lined with rocks, and a brick retaining wall along the southern boundary. The site contains erosion and sediment control measures that include silt fencing and straw wattles around the soil stockpiles and straw wattles and fabric that border the culvert and ditch. The majority of the vegetation that is present within this Study Area is from recent hydroseeding application, which can still be seen, in addition to straw that was applied for soil stabilization.

Within this community there are a few low topographical areas along the western boundary of the site, that were formed in 2015 due to the construction of University Avenue Alignment Project, to the west.

4.4. Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plant and animal species that have been afforded special recognition by federal, State, or local resource agencies or organizations. Listed and special-status species are of relatively limited distribution and may require specialized habitat conditions. Special-status species are defined as meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed or proposed for listing under CESA or FESA;
- Protected under other regulations (e.g. Migratory Bird Treaty Act);
- Included on the CDFW Special Animals List;
- Identified as Rank 1 to 4 by CNPS; or
- Receive consideration during environmental review under CEQA.

Special-status species considered for this analysis are based on queries of the CNDDB, the USFWS, and CNPS ranked species (online versions) for the *Roseville* and eight surrounding quadrangles. **Appendix A** includes the common name and scientific name for each species, regulatory status (federal, State, local, CNPS), habitat descriptions, and potential for occurrence in the Study Area. The following set of criteria has been used to determine each species' potential for occurrence in the Study Area:

- **Present**: Species known to occur within the Study Area based on CNDDB records and/or observed within the Study Area during the biological surveys.
- **High**: Species known to occur on or in the vicinity of the Study Area (based on CNDDB records within five miles and/or based on professional expertise specific to the Study Area or species) and there is suitable habitat within the Study Area.
- **Low**: Species known to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area and there is marginal habitat within the Study Area **-OR-** Species is not known to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area, however, there is suitable habitat on the Study Area.
- **None**: Species is not known to occur on or in the vicinity of the Study Area and there is no suitable habitat within the Study Area -**OR-** Species was surveyed for during the appropriate season with negative results **-OR-** The Study Area occurs outside of the known elevation or geographic ranges.

Only those species that are known to be *present* or have a *high* or *low* potential for occurrence are discussed further in the following sections.

4.4.1. Listed and Special-Status Plants

Based on the level of disturbance within the Study Area, no special-status plant species have the potential to occur on or in the vicinity of the Study Area.

4.4.2. Listed and Special-Status Wildlife

According to the records search, two special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur on or in the vicinity of the Study Area. Based on field observations and literature review, two protected bird species were determined to have potential to occur in the Study Area. Swainson's hawk has a *high* potential to forage within the Study Area. Burrowing owl has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

Wildlife Species with a High Potential for Occurrence

Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk is a State threatened species as designated by the CDFW. This species is a long-distance migrant with nesting grounds in western North America. The Swainson's hawk population that nests in the Central Valley winters primarily in Mexico, while the population that nests in the interior portions of North America winters in South America (Bradbury *et. al.*, in prep.). Swainson's hawks arrive in the Central Valley between March and early April to establish breeding territories. Breeding occurs from late March to late August, peaking in late May through July (Zeiner *et. al.*, 1990). In the Central Valley, Swainson's hawks nest in isolated trees, small groves, or large woodlands next to open grasslands or agricultural fields. This species typically nests near riparian areas; however, it has been known to nest in urban areas as well. In the Central Valley, the most commonly used trees include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), willows (*Salix* sp.), sycamores (*Platanus* sp.), valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), and walnut (*Juglans* sp.), and occasionally gum trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.), pines and redwoods

(Woodbridge 1998). Nest locations are usually in close proximity (up to a 10-mile radius) to suitable foraging habitats, which include fallow fields, all types of grasslands, irrigated pastures, alfalfa and other hay crops, and low-growing row crops (SAIC 2012). Swainson's hawks leave their breeding grounds to return to their wintering grounds in late August or early September (Bloom and De Water 1994).

There are five CNDDB records of this species within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018). This species was not observed onsite during the site surveys. However, this species has been recently observed in the immediate vicinity of the Study Area foraging over adjacent parcels during construction activities. There is no suitable nesting habitat for this species within the Study Area. Therefore, this species has a *high* potential to forage within the Study Area.

Wildlife Species with a Low Potential for Occurrence

Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl is a State Species of Special Concern as designated by the CDFW. Burrowing owl is a small ground-dwelling owl that occurs in western North America from Canada to Mexico and east to Texas and Louisiana. Although in certain areas of their range, burrowing owls are migratory, these owls are predominantly non-migratory in California. Burrowing owls generally inhabit gently-sloping areas, characterized by low, sparse vegetation (Poulin *et al.* 2011). The breeding season for burrowing owls is from March to August, peaking in April and May (Zeiner *et. al.* 1990). Burrowing owls nest in burrows in the ground, often in old ground squirrel burrows. Burrowing owl is also known to use artificial burrows including pipes, stockpiles, culverts, and nest boxes.

There is one CNDDB occurrence for this species within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018). The rock piles within the disturbed/developed site provide marginal breeding and foraging habitat. However, no ground squirrels, few small mammals, and no suitable burrows were observed during the site survey. The high level of disturbance also reduces the likelihood that owls would occupy the Study Area. Therefore, this species has a *low* potential to occur within the Study Area.

4.5. Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats include those areas that are of special concern to resource agencies or those that are protected under CEQA, Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, and/or Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. No sensitive habitats are present within the Study Area.

4.5.1. Wildlife Migration Corridors

Wildlife corridors link together areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, or human disturbance. The fragmentation of open space areas by urbanization creates isolated "islands" of wildlife habitat. Fragmentation can also occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, such as when woodland or scrub habitat is altered or converted into grasslands after a disturbance such as

fire, mudslide, or grading activities. Wildlife corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by: (1) allowing animals to move between remaining habitats, thereby permitting depleted populations to be replenished and promoting genetic exchange; (2) providing escape routes from fire, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk of catastrophic events (such as fire or disease) on population or local species extinction; and (3) serving as travel routes for individual animals as they move within their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs. The Study Area is located in the center of a developed area that include roads, existing residential developments, and current active development construction, which isolates the Study Area from any adjacent natural habitats. Therefore, the Study Area does not link two significant natural areas, and is not considered a wildlife migration corridor.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed project will develop the entire Study Area and impact approximately 10 acres of disturbed/developed habitat (**Figure 3**).

Known or potential biological constraints in the Study Area include the following:

- Potential nesting and foraging habitat for burrowing owl; and
- Potential foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk.

5.1. Burrowing Owl and Ground Nesting Birds

Burrowing owl has a *low* potential to occur within the disturbed/developed community due to the presence of rock piles and known occurrences in the area; however, the site has few small mammals and no ground squirrels or burrows. Although no burrowing owls were observed during the biological survey, the species could nest in the rock piles and forage within the Study Area in the future. Therefore, it is recommended that a burrowing owl survey be conducted no more than 30 days prior to the onset of construction. Burrowing owls can be present during all times of the year in California, so this survey is recommended regardless of the time construction activities occur. This survey would address the potential ground nesting birds that may occur on the site and are protected by the MBTA for construction that would occur during the nesting season (approximately February through August).

If active owl burrows are located during the pre-construction survey, it is recommended that a 250-foot buffer zone be established around each burrow with an active nest until the young have fledged and are able to exit the burrow.

In the case of occupied burrows without active nesting, active burrows after the young have fledged, or if development commences after the breeding season (typically February through August), passive relocation of the birds should be performed. Passive relocation involves installing a one-way door at the burrow entrance, which encourages the owls to move from the occupied burrow. CDFW should be consulted for current guidelines and methods for passive relocation of any owls found on the site. Mitigation for project impacts that result in relocation of burrowing owls and loss of burrows and/or foraging habitat may be required for CEQA (CDFW recommends 6.5 acres of foraging habitat be preserved for each active burrow that would be impacted by project activities). The lead agency under CEQA, in coordination with CDFW, is responsible for prescribing appropriate mitigation for any project-related impacts to burrowing owls. These mitigation measures would only apply in the event that burrowing owls were encountered during the pre-construction survey. The biologist would also propose an appropriate nest buffer for other active nests found during the survey.

5.2. Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk has a *high* potential to forage within the Study Area due to the presence of foraging habitat and known occurrences within the vicinity of the Study Area. Although no Swainson's hawks were observed during the site survey, the species could forage within the

Study Area in the future. Vegetation clearing and ground-disturbing construction activities would destroy potential foraging habitat for this species.

Currently, the CDFW recommends that impacts to suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat within 10 miles of an active nest should be mitigated by securing a conservation easement or fee title on suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat in the region. Currently, this translates to the following:

1. For projects within a one-mile radius of an active nest site, the project proponent should preserve 1.0 acre of similar habitat for each acre lost within a ten-mile radius of the project site;
2. For projects within a one to five-mile radius of an active nest site, the project proponent should preserve 0.75 acres of similar habitat for each acre lost within a ten-mile radius of the project site; and
3. For projects within a five to ten-mile radius of an active nest site, the project proponent should preserve 0.5 acre of similar habitat for each acre lost within a ten-mile radius of the project site.

The lead agency under CEQA (in this case the City of Rocklin), in coordination with CDFW, would determine what mitigation, if any, would be appropriate for impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.

5.3. Summary of Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- Conduct a pre-construction survey for burrowing owl and other ground nesting birds, within 30 days prior to the start of construction; and
- Confirm with City of Rocklin requirements for potential impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.

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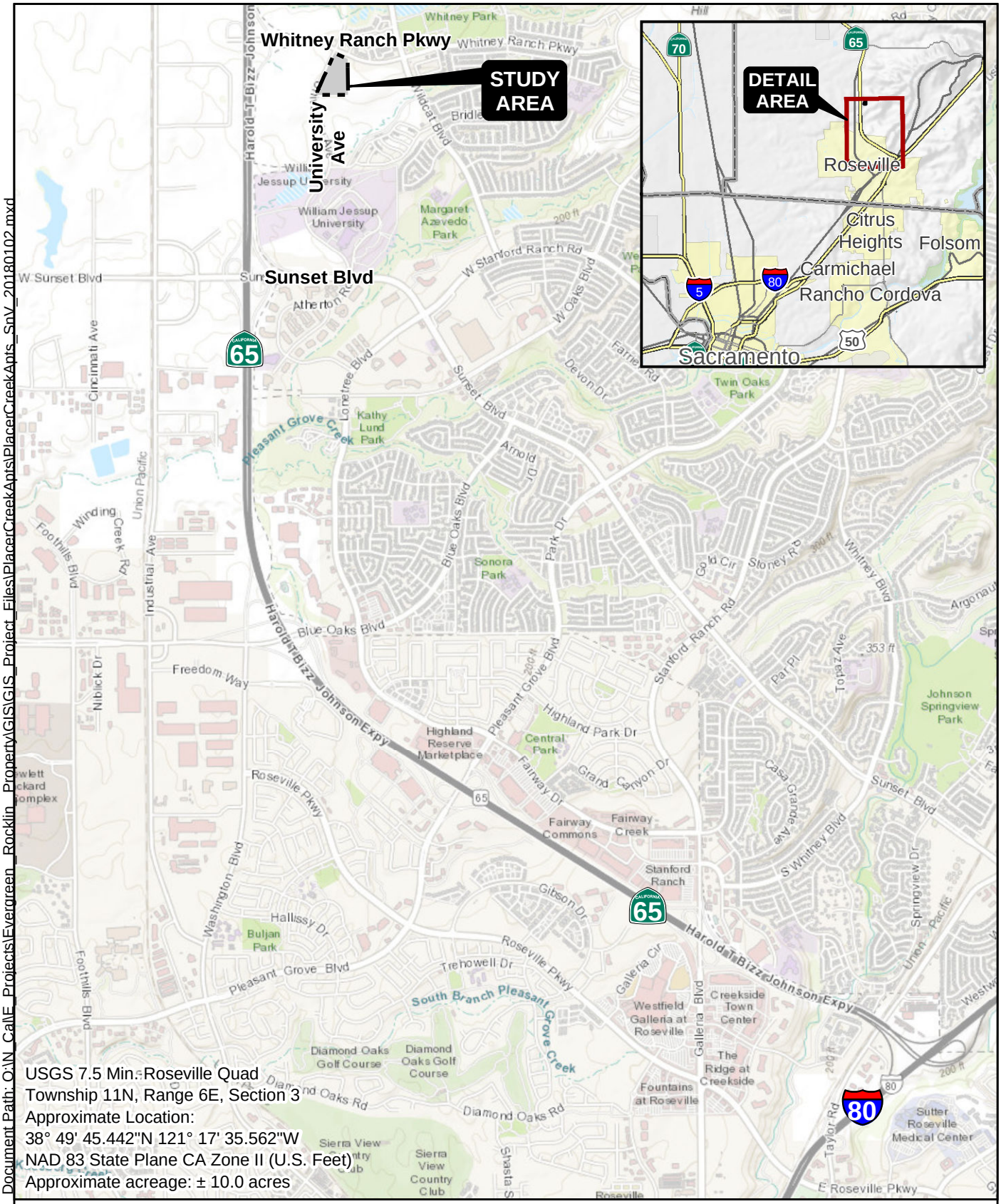

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USGS 7.5 Min. Roseville Quad
Township 11N, Range 6E, Section 3
Approximate Location:
38° 49' 45.442"N 121° 17' 35.562"W
NAD 83 State Plane CA Zone II (U.S. Feet)
Approximate acreage: ± 10.0 acres

SITE AND VICINITY

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

0 1500 3000
Feet
1 in = 3,000 feet

Drawn By: MUB
QA/QC: AMP
Date: 01/05/2018

FIGURE 1

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SOILS

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

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Feet
1 inch = 150 feet

Drawn By: MUB
QA/QC: AMP
Date: 01/05/2018

FIGURE 2

PLACER CREEK APARTMENTS

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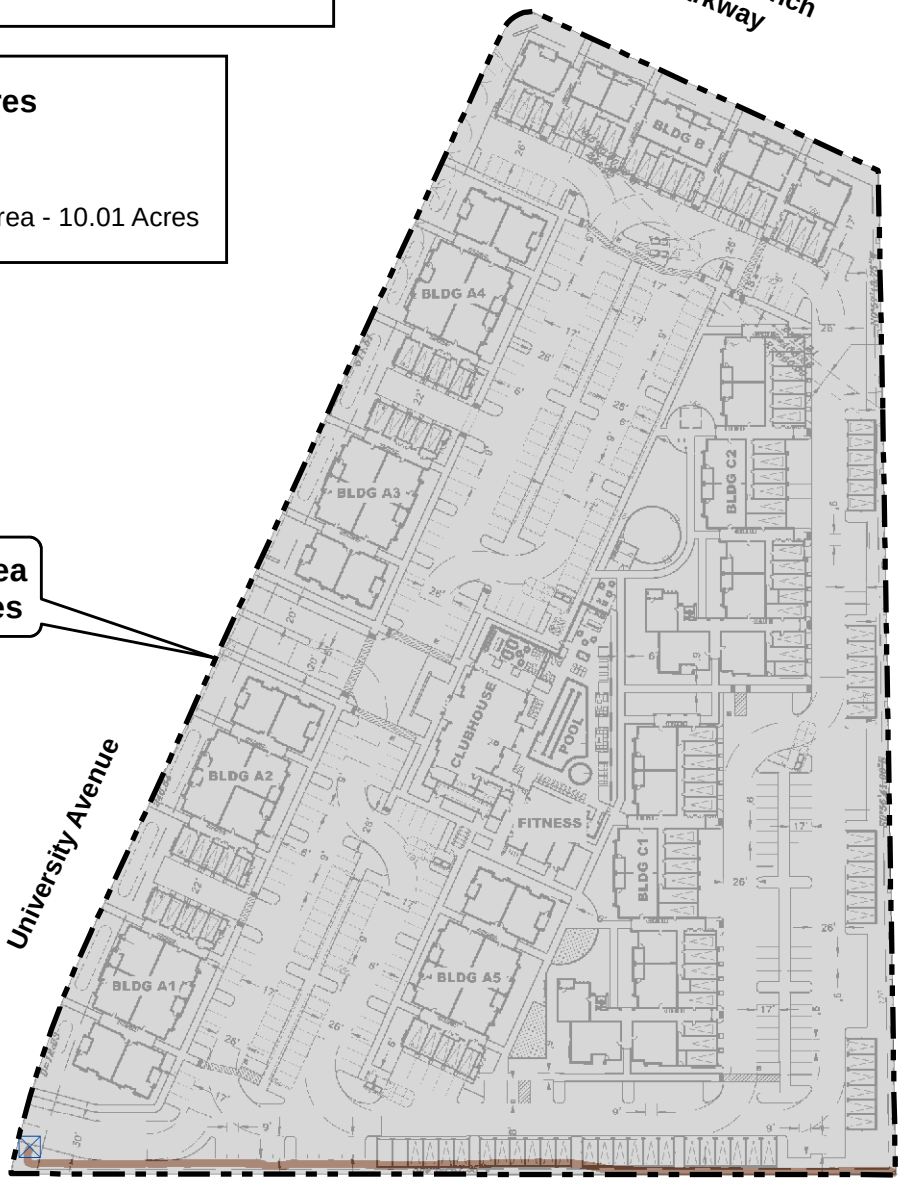
Impacts to Biological Communities

- Cement Lined Ditch - 0.06 Acres
- Disturbed/Developed - 9.95 Acres

Other Features

- Culvert
- Study Area - 10.01 Acres



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BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND PROJECT IMPACTS

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING • PLANNING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

N

0 75 150
Feet
1 inch = 150 feet

Drawn By: MUB
QA/QC: AMP
Date: 01/16/2018

FIGURE 3

PLACER CREEK APARTMENTS

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Appendix A — Regionally Occurring Listed and Special-Status Species

Regulatory Status Legend

FE = Federal endangered FT = Federal threatened FC = Federal candidate PT = Federal proposed threatened FPD = Federal proposed for delisting FD = Federal delisted	CE = California state endangered CT = California state threatened CCE = California candidate endangered CCT = California candidate threatened CFP = California fully protected CD = California delisted CSC = California Species of Special Concern CSA = California Special Animals List CR = California state rare	1A = plants presumed extinct in California 1B = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere 2 = plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but common elsewhere 3 = plants about which we need more information 4 = plants of limited distribution

Table 1 — Legally Protected Species

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Plants				
Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	--; CE; --; 1B	Annual herb found on clay soils in vernal pools, marshes, and swamps, occasionally along the lake margins, from 10 to 2,375 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: April – August	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrences is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Sacramento Orcutt grass *Orcuttia viscida*	FE; CE; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools from 30 to 100 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: April – July (September)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Invertebrates				
Conservancy fairy shrimp *Branchinecta conservatio*	FE; --; --; --	Found in large, clay-bottomed vernal pool playas with turbid water within California grassland habitats. Elevational ranges from 5 to 145 meters (16 to 476 feet). Known to occur within Butte, Glenn, Kern, Merced, Placer, Solano, Stanislaus, Tehama, Ventura, and Yolo counties.	USFWS protocol-level wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT; --; --; --	Sole hosts are elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.) shrubs usually associated with riparian areas. This species is known from portions of the Central Valley of California	Adults emerge in spring until June Exit holes visible year – round	**None**; there were no elderberry shrubs identified within the Study Area during the January 3, 2018 site survey. Two CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT; --; --; --	Inhabits vernal pools, swales, and ephemeral freshwater habitat. Known from Alameda, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, and Yuba counties.	USFWS protocol-level wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Thirty CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE; --; --; --	Inhabits vernal pools, swales, and ephemeral freshwater habitat. Known from Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Merced, Placer, Fresno, San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba counties.	USFWS protocol-level wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification.	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Two CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Fish				
Central Valley steelhead DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	FT; --; --; --	Found in cool, clear, fast-flowing permanent streams and rivers with riffles and ample cover from riparian vegetation or overhanging banks. Spawning occurs in streams with pool and riffle complexes. The species requires cold water and gravelly streambed to successfully breed. Spawn in the Fresno and San Joaquin rivers and tributaries before migrating to the Delta and Bay Area.	Spawns in winter and spring	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	FT; CE; --; --	Found in estuarine waters. Majority of life span is spent within the freshwater outskirts of the mixing zone (saltwater-freshwater interface) within the Delta.	December – July (Spawn) Year-round (Present in delta)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Amphibians/ Reptiles				
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT; CSC; --; --	Requires a permanent water source and is typically found along quiet, slow-moving streams, ponds, or marsh communities with emergent vegetation. Breeding sites are in aquatic habitats including pools and backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, springs, sag ponds, dune ponds and lagoons from 0 to 1,500 meters. Additionally, frequently breed in artificial impoundments such as stock ponds. Typically found in or within 300 feet of aquatic habitat, but may disperse up to two miles between suitable aquatic habitat. Elevational range extends from sea level to about 1,500 meters (5,000 ft.), but typically occur below 1,200 meters (3,935 ft.).	Breeding: November – March Non-breeding: June – August	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*	FT; CT; --; --	Found in agricultural wetlands and other wetlands such as irrigation and drainage canals, low gradient streams, marshes, ponds, sloughs, small lakes, and their associated uplands. Upland habitat should have burrows or other soil crevices suitable for snakes to reside during their dormancy period (November – mid March). This species is known from Sacramento, Sutter, Butte, Colusa, and Glenn counties.	Dormancy period November-mid March Active March – October	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Birds				
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	--; CT; --; --	Saltwater, brackish, and freshwater marshes. This species is known from Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, Imperial, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, and Yuba counties, in California.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	--; CT; --; --	Colonial breeder found in open and partly open situations, frequently near flowing water. Nests on steep sand, dirt, or gravel banks, in burrows dug near the top of the bank, along the edge of inland water, or along the coast, or in gravel pits or road embankments.	April – September	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	--; CT; --; --	Nest peripherally to Valley riparian systems lone trees or groves of trees in agricultural fields. Most commonly used nest trees in the Central Valley, include valley oak, Fremont cottonwood, walnut, and large willows, and occasionally eucalyptus, pine and redwood trees. Forages in row, hay and grain agricultural crops, especially post-harvest when the height of the vegetation is short and easy to observe prey.	March – October (Breeding)	**High**; the disturbed/developed areas within the Study Area provides suitable foraging habitat for this species. There is no suitable nesting habitat. Five CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Tri-colored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	--; CCE; CSA; --	Breeding habitat is freshwater marshes that include cattails, tules, bulrushes and sedges. Nests are made in the dense vegetation of the marsh or thickets, and sometimes on the ground. In migration and winter, will inhabit open cultivated lands and pastures as well as marshes.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Eight CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Western yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	FT; CE; --; --	Found in various types of forest, woodland and scrub habitats. Breeding habitat is generally deciduous riparian woodland, including dense stands of cottonwood and willow, tamarisk and mesquite. Dense riparian understory is a key factor in nest site selection. Cottonwood trees are key for foraging habitat.	Summer (Breeding)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Note: Table 1 includes federal threatened or endangered species and eagles, and State threatened, endangered, or fully protected species.

Table 2 — Species Subject to CEQA Review

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Plants				
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb found in mesic areas in valley and foothill grassland from 30 to 229 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: March – May	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis*	--; --; --; 1B	Perennial herb found sometimes in serpentine soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats from 90 to 1,555 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: March – June	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Two CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	--; --; --; 2B	An annual herb found in mesic areas within valley and foothill grassland and vernal pool habitats from 1 to 445 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: March – May	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Six CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Hispid bird's beak *Chloropyron molle* ssp. *hispidum*	--; --; --; 1B	An annual hemi-parasitic herb found in alkaline soils within meadows and seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grassland from 1 to 155 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: June – September	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernal pools from 1 to 880 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: April – June	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Three CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb often found in acidic soils within vernal pools from 20 to 330 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: April – May	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Red Bluff dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus* var. *leiospermus*	--; --; --; 1B	Annual herb found in vernally mesic chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools from 35 to 1,250 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: March – June	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	--; --; --; 1B	An emergent perennial rhizomatous, herb found in assorted shallow freshwater marshes and swamps from 0 to 650 meters in elevation.	Blooming period: May – October (November)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Invertebrates				
California linderiella *Linderiella occidentalis*	--; CSA; --; --	Found in a variety of natural, and artificial seasonally ponded freshwater habitats, including vernal pools, swales, ephemeral drainages, stock ponds, reservoirs, ditches, backhoe pits, and ruts caused by vehicular activity.	Wet-season sampling and/or dry season cyst identification	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Nineteen CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Amphibians/Reptiles				
Western pond turtle *Emys marmorata*	--; CSC; --; --	Typically associated with permanent ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches and canals, and marshes, or pools in intermittent drainages, usually lined with abundant vegetation and either rocky or muddy bottom substrates. Requires aquatic basking sites, such as logs, rocks, cattail mats or exposed banks. Turtles are active from February to November, in which breeding occurs from April to May. Overwintering occurs in upland terrestrial habitats close to water sources (approximately 300 feet), in which they will bury themselves under loose soil.	Active: February – November	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in a variety of upland habitats, including lowlands, foothills, grasslands, open chaparral, and pine-oak woodlands. Habitat preferences include shortgrass plains, and sandy or gravelly soils for burrowing (e.g. alkali flats, washes, alluvial fans). Hibernates/aestivates for most of the year underground. During the breeding season are found in temporary rain pools, and slow-moving streams (e.g. areas flooded by intermittent streams).	Breeding: January – May	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Three CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Birds				
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	--; CSC; --; -- (burrowing sites and some wintering sites)	Nests in burrows in the ground, often in old ground squirrel burrows or badger, within open dry grassland and desert habitat. The burrows are found in dry, level, open terrain, including prairie, plains, desert, and grassland with low height vegetation for foraging and available perches, such as fences, utility poles, posts, or raised rodent mounds.	Year – round	**Low**; the rock piles in the disturbed/developed areas within the Study Area provides marginal breeding and foraging habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperii*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in cismontane woodland, riparian forest, riparian woodland, and upper montane coniferous forest.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in open grasslands and prairies. Nests at base of overhanging clumps of grass. Forages on the ground in search for primary prey, grasshoppers. This species is known from Los Angeles, Mendocino, Orange, Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Solano, and Yuba counties, in California.	Summer (Breeding)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Great blue heron *Ardea herodias*	--; CSA; --; --	Inhabits both freshwater and saltwater habitats and forages in grassland and agricultural field. Breeding colonies are located within 2 to 4 miles of feeding areas, often in isolated swamps or on islands, and near lakes and ponds bordered by forests.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Great egret *Ardea alba*	--; CSA; --; --	Found in marshes, swampy woods, tidal estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, streams, lakes, ponds, fields and meadows. Nests primarily in tall trees, or in woods or thickets near water.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Merlin *Falco columbarius*	--; CSA; --; --	Non-breeding habitats include a wide variety, such as marshes, deserts, sea coasts, near coastal lakes and lagoons, open woodlands, fields, etc. During winter, may roost in conifer trees.	Winter (non-breeding)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*	--; CSA; --; --	Found near a water source, either freshwater or salt water, such as coastal estuaries, salt marshes, large lakes, reservoirs, and rivers, where large numbers of fish are present. Sometimes seen in desert habitat during migration.	Winter (Non-Breeding)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Purple martin *Progne subis*	--; CSC; --; --	Nests in wide variety of open and partly open habitats that are often near water or around towns. Nests in tree cavities, abandoned woodpecker holes, crevices in rocks, and sometimes in bird houses or gourds put up by humans.	Summer (breeding)	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Song sparrow *Melospiza melodia* (Modesto population)	--; CSC; --; --	Found in a wide range of habitats including forest, shrub, and riparian habitat. Early in the season will nest on the ground on clumps of dead grasses and weeds, and later in the season will nest in thorny bushes, willows, cattails, cordgrass, and small conifers (0.5-10 meters high).	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	--; CFP; --; -- (nesting)	Inhabit savanna, open woodlands, marshes, desert grassland, partially cleared lands and cultivated fields along forest margins or close to trees. Nests in trees, often near a marsh in savanna, open woodland, partially cleared lands, and cultivated fields. Foraging occurs within ungrazed or lightly-grazed fields and pastures.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. Two CNDDB occurrences are documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).
Mammals				
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in a variety of grassland, shrublands, and open woodlands throughout California. Prefers open areas, and may frequent brushlands, with minimal ground cover. Occurs from below sea level to 3,600 meters. Primarily nocturnal, but can be active at any time of day. Strong affinity to a home area (2 to 725 ha), especially in winter. Suitable burrowing habitat, to make dens and forage for prey, requires friable soils. The majority of their food is obtained by excavating burrows of fossorial rodents (ground squirrels, pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, prairie-dogs, and mice), but will also eat scorpions, insects, snakes, lizards, and birds.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	--; CSC; --; --	Mostly are found in desert habitats, including scrub and canyons with rocky outcrops, and in oak woodland, savannah, and riparian habitats generally below 2,000 meters (6,562 feet). Maternity roosts in rock crevices, in buildings and other man-made structures. Day roosting sites include caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally in hollow trees and buildings, while nighttime roosts may occur in more open areas, such as porches or open buildings.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Silver haired bat *Lasionycteris noctivagans*	--; CSA; --; --	Found in primarily coniferous forested areas adjacent to lakes, ponds, and streams. Summer roosts and nursery sites occur in coniferous or deciduous tree foliage, cavities or under loose bark, and sometimes in buildings. In winter, can be found in caves, mines, houses, rock crevices, under loose bark, and in hollow trees.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	--; CSC; --; --	Found in subalpine and alpine habitats. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. Hibernation sites are cold, but not below freezing temperatures. Maternity sites are warm and similar to roosting sites.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Note: Table 2 includes state and federal species of concern and Rank 1 and 2 CNPS species.

Table 3 — Other Species of Interest

Special-Status Species	Regulatory Status	Habitat Requirements	Identification/ Survey Period	Potential for Occurrence
Plants				
Adobe navarretia *Navarretia nigelliformis* ssp. *nigelliformis*	--; --; --; 4	Annual herb found in clay soils, sometimes serpentinite, within vernally mesic valley and foothill grassland and sometimes vernal pools from 100 to 1,000 meters.	Blooming period: April – June	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Brandegee's clarkia *Clarkia biloba* ssp. *brandegeeae*	--; --; --; 4	Annual herb found often in roadcuts within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 75 to 915 meters.	Blooming period: May – July	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Stinkbells *Fritillaria agrestis*	--; --; --; 4	Perennial bulbiferous herb found in clay soils, sometimes in serpentinite, chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland from 10 to 1,555 meters.	Blooming period: March – June	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Invertebrates				
Andrenid bee *Andrena subapasta*	--; CSA; --; --	Found in grassland habitats within El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. Ground nesters that will be underground from summer, fall and winter and emerge in early spring to forage and pollinate early bloomers, such as willows, maples, violets and other early blooming wildflowers.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle *Hydrochara rickseckeri*	--; CSA; --; --	An aquatic beetle known to occur in shallow waters of creeks, artificial ponds, springs and brooks. Known to occur along the San Francisco Bay within Alameda, Marin, San Mateo and Sonoma counties. Can also be found in Lake, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Solano counties.	Year – round	**None**; the Study Area does not provide suitable habitat for this species. One CNDDB occurrence is documented within five miles of the Study Area (CDFW 2018).

Note: Table 3 includes Rank 3 and 4 CNPS species and non-listed invertebrates, which may not be subject to CEQA review.

Appendix B — Plants and Wildlife Observed in the Study Area

Appendix B — List of Plants Observed within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Native (N) / Non-Native/ Invasive (NN)
Poaceae	*Avena* sp.	Oat	--
Asteraceae	*Baccharis pilularis*	Coyote brush	**N**
Brassicaceae	*Brassica nigra*	Black mustard	**I**
Poaceae	*Bromus hordeaceus*	Soft chess	**I**
Euphorbiaceae	*Croton setiger*	Turkey-mullein	**N**
Asteraceae	*Dittrichia graveolens*	Stinkwort	**I**
Poaceae	*Elymus caput-medusae*	Medusahead	**I**
Geraniaceae	*Erodium botrys*	Broad leaf filaree	**NN**
Poaceae	*Hordeum murinum*	Foxtail barley	**I**
Apiaceae	*Torilis arvenis*	Field hedge parsley	**I**
Lamiaceae	*Trichostema lanceolatum*	Vinegarweed	**N**
Fabaceae	*Trifolium hirtum*	Rose clover	**I**
Fabaceae	*Vicia* sp.	Vetch	--

Appendix B — List of Wildlife Observed within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Anatidae	*Branta canadensis*	Canada goose
Corvidae	*Corvus corax*	Common raven
Leporidae	*Lepus californicus*	Black-tailed jackrabbit
Tyrannidae	*Sayornis nigricans*	Black phoebe
Columbidae	*Zenaida macroura*	Mourning dove
Emberizidae	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*	White-crowned sparrow
Icteridae	*Sturnella neglecta*	Western meadowlark

Appendix C — Representative Site Photographs

Photo 1: Looking northeast across the entrance along University Avenue within the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks

Photo 2: Looking west along the concrete lined v-ditch in the southern boundary of the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks

Photo 3: Looking northwest across the soil stockpiles within the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks

Photo 4: Looking northwest across the soil stockpiles within the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks

Photo 5: Looking southwest across the central portion of the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks

Photo 6: Looking south across the rock piles and soil stockpiles within the Study Area.

Date: January 3, 2018 Photographer: Charlotte Marks