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## Biological Resource Evaluation

July 2024

**Farmersville Residential Development Project**

Tulare County, California

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# Executive Summary

The project applicant proposes to construct a residential development in Farmersville in northwestern Tulare County, California. The proposed project will involve constructing a 115-unit single-family residential development. The project site is south of the intersection of West Walnut Avenue and North June Avenue.

To evaluate whether the project may affect biological resources under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) purview, we (1) obtained lists of special-status species from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Native Plant Society; (2) reviewed other relevant background information such as aerial imagery and topographic maps; and (3) conducted a field reconnaissance survey at the project site.

This biological resource evaluation summarizes (1) existing biological conditions on the project site, (2) the potential for special-status species and regulated habitats to occur on or near the project site, (3) the potential impacts of the proposed project on biological resources and regulated habitats, and (4) measures to reduce those potential impacts to less-than-significant levels under CEQA.

We concluded the Project could affect nesting migratory birds. However, effects can be reduced to less-than-significant levels with mitigation.



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# Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
FE	Federally listed as Endangered
FC	Federal Candidate for listing under the FESA
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FP	State Fully Protected
FPT	Federally proposed as Threatened
FT	Federally listed as Threatened
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
SC	State Candidate for listing under the CESA
SE	State listed as Endangered
SSSC	State Species of Special Concern
ST	State listed as Threatened
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey



# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The applicant proposes to construct a residential development (the Project) on approximately 22.2 acres near Farmersville in northwestern Tulare County, California. The Project site currently supports a walnut orchard.

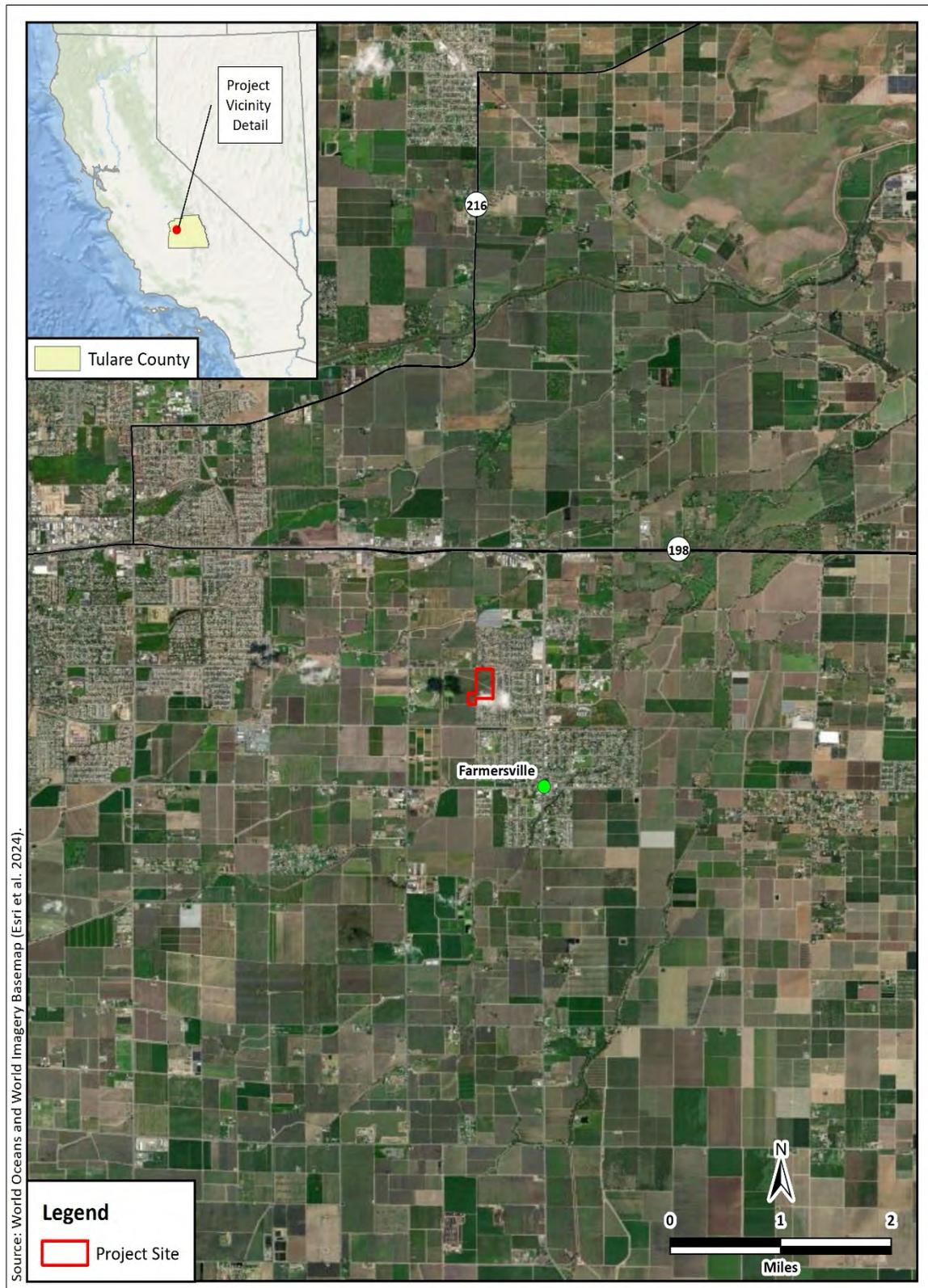
The purpose of this biological resource evaluation is to assess whether the Project will affect protected biological resources pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. Such resources include species of plants or animals listed or proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as well as those covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the California Native Plant Protection Act, and various other sections of California Fish and Game Code (CFGF). This biological resource evaluation also addresses Project-related impacts to regulated habitats, which are those under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

## 1.2 Project Description

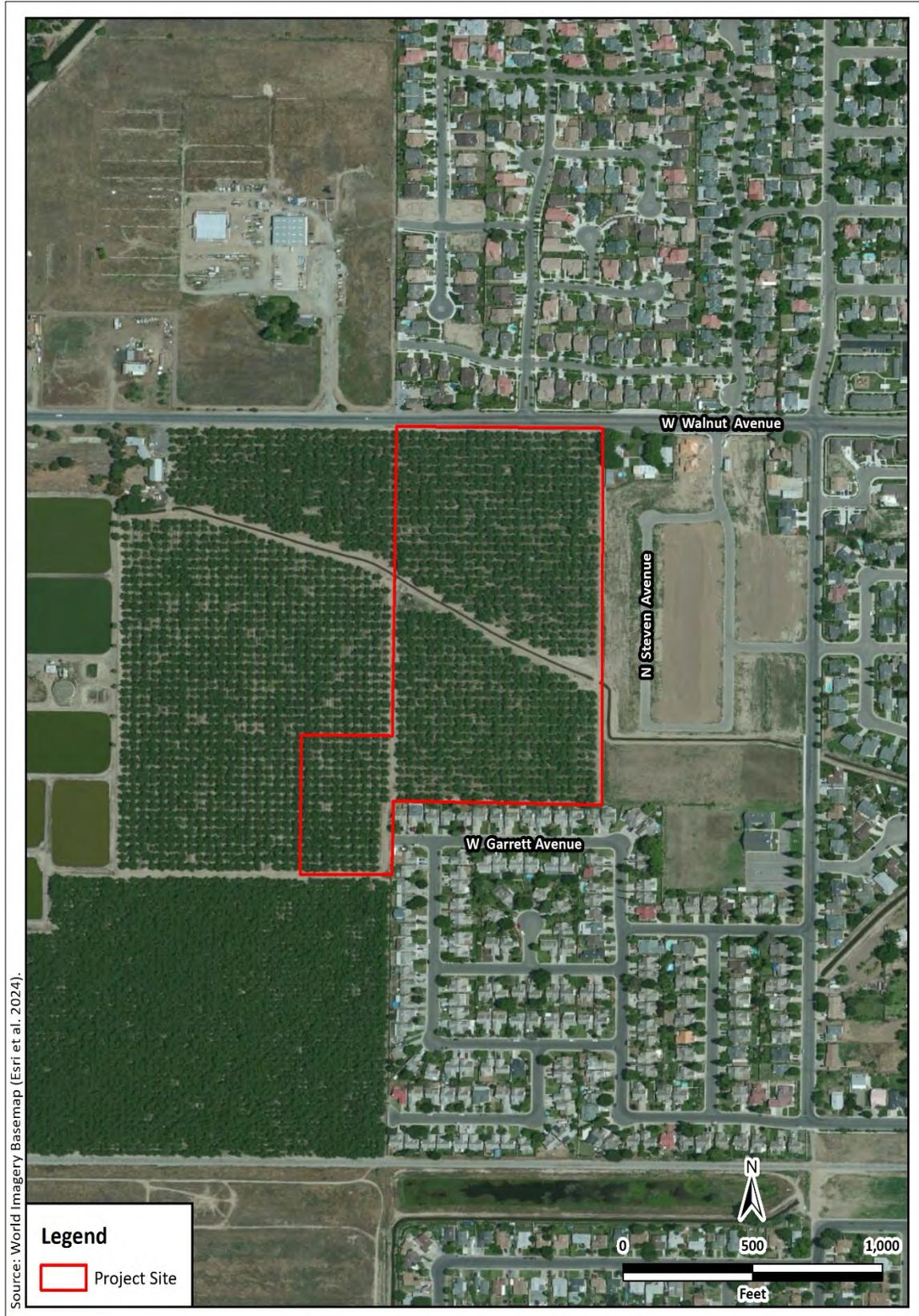
The proposed Project will involve constructing a 115-unit single-family residential development on approximately 22.2 acres. The subdivision will include new residential streets, a park, and a detention basin. An open irrigation ditch on the Project site will be undergrounded.

## 1.3 Project Location

The Project site is south of West Walnut Avenue and west of North Steven Avenue in Farmersville in northwestern Tulare County, California (Figures 1 and 2).



**Figure 1.** Project site vicinity map.



**Figure 2.** Project site map.



## 1.4 Regulatory Framework

The relevant regulatory requirements and policies that guide the impact analysis of the Project are summarized below.

### 1.4.1 State Requirements

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife Jurisdiction.** The CDFW has regulatory jurisdiction over lakes and streams in California. Activities that divert or obstruct the natural flow of a stream; substantially change its bed, channel, or bank; or use any materials (including vegetation) from the streambed may require that the project applicant enter into a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement with the CDFW in accordance with California Fish and Game Code [CFGF] Section 1602.

**California Endangered Species Act.** The CESA of 1970 (CFGF Section 2050 et seq. and California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Subsections 670.2 and 670.51) prohibits the take of species listed under CESA (14 CCR Subsections 670.2 and 670.5). Take is defined as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. Under CESA, state agencies are required to consult with the CDFW when preparing CEQA documents. Consultation ensures that proposed projects or actions do not adversely affect state listed species. During consultation, CDFW determines whether take would occur and identifies “reasonable and prudent alternatives” for the project and conservation of special-status species. CDFW can authorize take of state listed species under Sections 2080.1 and 2081(b) of the CFGF in those cases where it is demonstrated the impacts are minimized and mitigated. Take authorized under section 2081(b) must be minimized and fully mitigated. A CESA permit must be obtained if a project will result in take of listed species, either during construction or over the life of the project. Under CESA, CDFW is responsible for maintaining a list of threatened and endangered species designated under state law (CFGF Section 2070). CDFW also maintains lists of species of special concern, which serve as “watch lists.” Pursuant to the requirements of CESA, a state or local agency reviewing a proposed project within its jurisdiction must determine whether the proposed project will have a potentially significant impact upon such species. Project-related impacts to species on the CESA list would be considered significant and would require mitigation. Impacts to species of concern or fully protected species would be considered significant under certain circumstances.

**California Environmental Quality Act.** The CEQA of 1970 (Subsections 21000–21178) requires that CDFW be consulted during the CEQA review process regarding impacts of proposed projects on special-status species. Special-status



species are defined under CEQA Guidelines subsection 15380(b) and (d) as those listed under FESA and CESA and species that are not currently protected by statute or regulation but would be considered rare, threatened, or endangered under these criteria or by the scientific community. Therefore, species considered rare or endangered are addressed in this biological resource evaluation regardless of whether they are afforded protection through any other statute or regulation. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) inventories the native flora of California and ranks species according to rarity (CNPS 2024). Plants with Rare Plant Ranks 1A, 1B, 2A, or 2B are considered special-status species under CEQA.

Although threatened and endangered species are protected by specific federal and state statutes, CEQA Guidelines Section 15380(d) provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare or endangered if it can be shown to meet certain specified criteria. These criteria have been modeled after the definition in the FESA and the section of the CFGC dealing with rare and endangered plants and animals. Section 15380(d) allows a public agency to undertake a review to determine if a significant effect on species that have not yet been listed by either the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW (i.e., candidate species) would occur. Thus, CEQA provides an agency with the ability to protect a species from the potential impacts of a project until the respective government agency has an opportunity to designate the species as protected, if warranted.

**California Native Plant Protection Act.** The California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 (CFGC Sections 1900–1913) requires all state agencies to use their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and otherwise rare species of native plants. Provisions of the act prohibit the taking of listed plants from the wild and require the project proponent to notify CDFW at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use, which allows CDFW to salvage listed plants that would otherwise be destroyed.

**Nesting birds.** CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 prohibit the possession, incidental take, or needless destruction of birds, their nests, and eggs. CFGC Section 3511 lists birds that are “Fully Protected” as those that may not be taken or possessed except under specific permit.

**Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.** The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code Section 13000 et. sec.) was established in 1969 and entrusts the SWRCB and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively Water Boards) with the responsibility to preserve and enhance all beneficial uses of California’s diverse waters. The Act grants the Water Boards authority to establish water quality objectives and regulate point- and nonpoint-



source pollution discharge to the state's surface and ground waters. Under the auspices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Water Boards are responsible for certifying, under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act, that activities affecting waters of the United States comply with California water quality standards. The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act addresses all "waters of the State," which are more broadly defined than waters of the United States. Waters of the State include any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state. They include artificial as well as natural water bodies and federally jurisdictional and federally non-jurisdictional waters. The Water Boards may issue a Waste Discharge Requirement permit for projects that will affect only federally non-jurisdictional waters of the State.

## 1.4.2 Federal Requirements

**Federal Endangered Species Act.** The USFWS and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service enforce the provisions stipulated in the FESA of 1973 (FESA, 16 United States Code [USC] Section 1531 et seq.). Threatened and endangered species on the federal list (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.11 and 17.12) are protected from take unless a Section 10 permit is granted to an entity other than a federal agency or a Biological Opinion with incidental take provisions is rendered to a federal lead agency via a Section 7 consultation. Take is defined as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct. Pursuant to the requirements of the FESA, an agency reviewing a proposed action within its jurisdiction must determine whether any federally listed species may be present in the proposed action area and determine whether the proposed action may affect such species. Under the FESA, habitat loss is considered an effect to a species. In addition, the agency is required to determine whether the proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species that is listed or proposed for listing under the FESA (16 USC Section 1536[3], [4]). Therefore, proposed action-related effects to these species or their habitats would be considered significant and would require mitigation.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act.** The federal MBTA (16 USC Section 703, Supp. I, 1989) prohibits killing, possessing, trading, or other forms of take of migratory birds except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. "Take" is defined as the pursuing, hunting, shooting, capturing, collecting, or killing of birds, their nests, eggs, or young (16 USC Section 703 and Section 715n). This act encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs. The MBTA specifically protects migratory bird nests from possession, sale, purchase, barter transport, import, and export, and take. For nests, the definition of take per



50 CFR 10.12 is to collect. The MBTA does not include a definition of an “active nest.” However, the “Migratory Bird Permit Memorandum” issued by the USFWS in 2003 and updated in 2018 clarifies the MBTA in that regard and states that the removal of nests, without eggs or birds, is legal under the MBTA, provided no possession (which is interpreted as holding the nest with the intent of retaining it) occurs during the destruction (USFWS 2018).

***United States Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdiction.*** Areas meeting the regulatory definition of “waters of the United States” (jurisdictional waters) are subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE under provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1972) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (1899). These waters may include all waters used, or potentially used, for interstate commerce, including all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, the territorial seas, all interstate waters, all impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States, tributaries of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States that are relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing bodies of water, and relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water with a continuous surface connection to waters of the United States (33 CFR part 328.3). Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland, waste treatment systems, ditches, artificially irrigated areas, artificial lakes or ponds, artificial reflecting pools or swimming pools, waterfilled depressions, and swales and erosional features. Under the 2006 Supreme Court ruling *Rapanos v. United States*, waters of the United States include non-navigable tributaries of traditional navigable waters that are relatively permanent. The 2023 Supreme Court ruling *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency* removed the significant nexus standard for tributaries and adjacent waters of the United States and requires tributaries and adjacent waters to have a continuous surface connection to a water of the United States. Wetlands on non-agricultural lands are identified using the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and related Regional Supplement* (USACE 1987 and 2008). Construction activities, including direct removal, filling, hydrologic disruption, or other means in jurisdictional waters are regulated by the USACE. The placement of dredged or fill material into such waters must comply with permit requirements of the USACE. No USACE permit will be effective in the absence of state water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The State Water Resources Control Board is the state agency, together with the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, charged with implementing water quality certification in California.



## 2.0 Methods

### 2.1 Desktop Review

As a framework for the evaluation and reconnaissance survey, we obtained a USFWS species list for the Project (USFWS 2024a, Appendix A). In addition, we searched the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, CDFW 2024, Appendix B) and the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2024, Appendix C) for records of special-status plant and animal species from the vicinity of the Project site. Regional lists of special-status species were compiled using CNDDDB and CNPS database searches confined to the Exeter 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle, which encompasses the Project site, and the eight surrounding quadrangles (Cairns Corner, Ivanhoe, Lindsay, Monson, Rocky Hill, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake). A local list of special-status species was compiled using CNDDDB records from within 5 miles of the Project site. Species that lacked a CEQA-recognized special-status designation by state or federal regulatory agencies or public interest groups were omitted from the final list. Species for which the Project site does not provide habitat were eliminated from further consideration. We also reviewed aerial imagery from Google Earth (Google 2024) and other sources, USGS topographic maps, the Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2024), the National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2024b), and relevant literature.

### 2.2 Reconnaissance Survey

Colibri Senior Technical Specialist Randy Sisk conducted a field reconnaissance survey at the Project site on 8 May 2024. The Project site and a 50-foot buffer (Figure 3) surrounding the Project site were walked and thoroughly inspected to evaluate and document the potential for the area to support state or federally protected resources. All plants except those under cultivation or planted in residential areas and all vertebrate wildlife species observed within the survey area were identified and documented. The survey area was evaluated for the presence of regulated habitats, including lakes, streams, and other waters as defined by the USACE, CDFW, and under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. An additional buffer of 0.5 miles around the Project site was inspected for potential nesting habitat for special-status raptors. The 0.5-mile buffer was surveyed by driving public roads and identifying the presence of large trees or other potentially suitable substrates for nesting raptors as well as open areas that could provide foraging habitat.



## 2.3 Significance Criteria

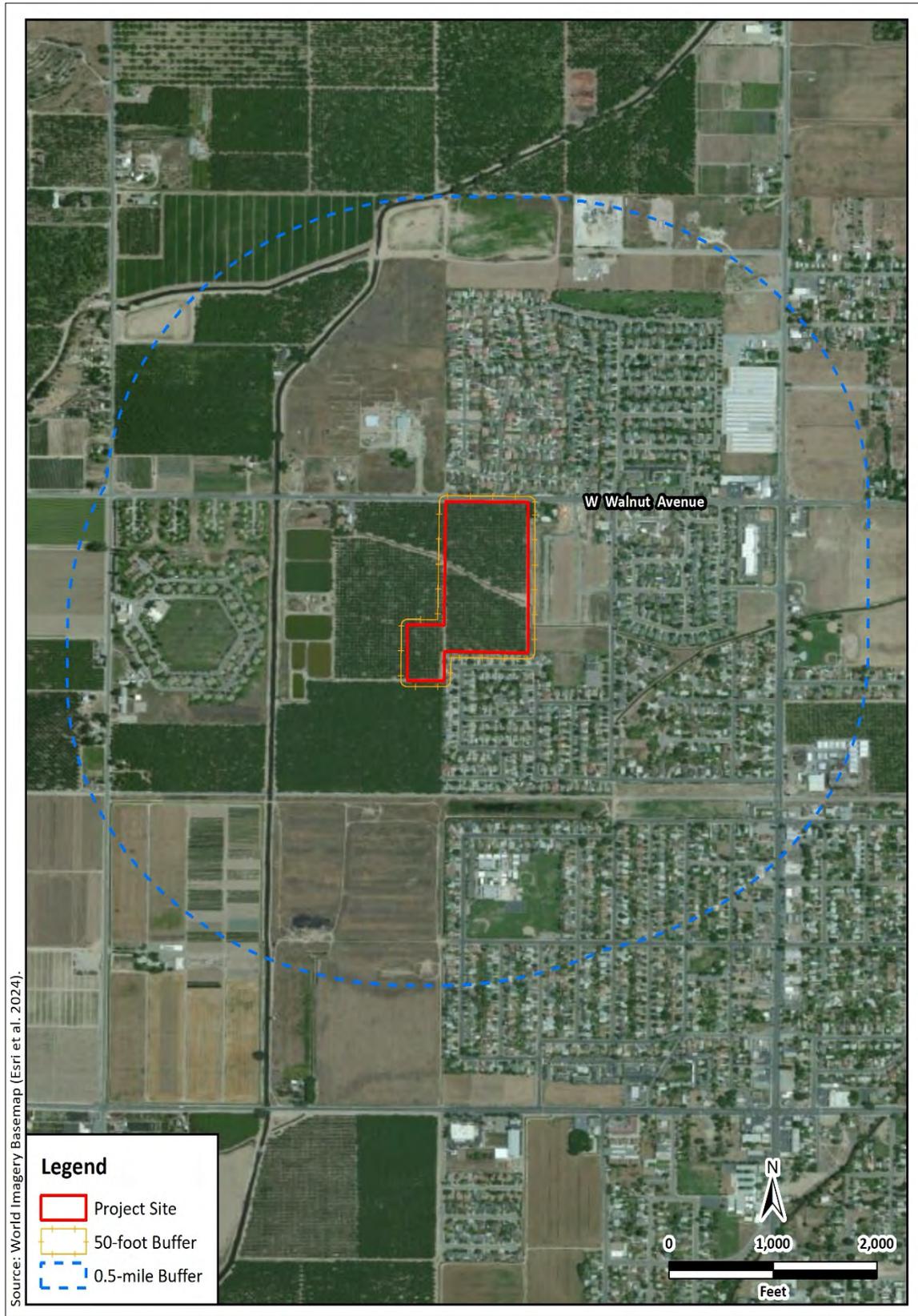
CEQA defines “significant effect on the environment” as “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment” (California Public Resource Code § 21068). Under CEQA Guidelines Section 15065, a Project’s effects on biological resources are deemed significant where the Project would do the following:

- a) Substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species,
- b) Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels,
- c) Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or
- d) Substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal.

In addition to the Section 15065 criteria, Appendix E within the CEQA Guidelines includes six additional impacts to consider when analyzing the effects of a project. Under Appendix E, a project’s effects on biological resources are deemed significant where the project would do any of the following:

- e) 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;
- f) 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;
- g) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;
- h) 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;
- i) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- j) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

These criteria were used to determine whether the potential effects of the Project on biological resources qualify as significant.



**Figure 3.** Reconnaissance survey area map.



## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Desktop Review

The USFWS species list for the Project included 11 species listed as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing under the FESA (USFWS 2024a, Table 1, Appendix A). None of those species could occur on or near the Project site due to the lack of habitat or because the Project site is outside the known range of the species (Table 1). As stated in the species list, the Project site occurs outside any proposed or designated USFWS critical habitat (USFWS 2024a, Appendix A).

Searching the CNDDDB for records of special-status species from the Exeter 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles produced 214 records of 49 species (Table 1, Appendix B). Of those 49 species, nine were not considered further because they are not CEQA-recognized as special-status species by state or federal regulatory agencies or public interest groups or are considered extirpated in California (Appendix B). Of the remaining 40 species, 11 are known from within 5 miles of the Project site (Table 1, Figure 4). Of those species, none are expected to occur on or near the Project site (Table 1) due to lack of habitat.

Searching the CNPS inventory of rare and endangered plants of California yielded 27 species (CNPS 2024, Appendix C), 21 of which have a CRPR of 1 or 2 and seven of which are also state or federally listed (Table 1). Of those 21 plant species, none could occur on or near the Project site due to the lack of habitat (Table 1).

The Project site is underlain by Nord fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (100%) (NCRS 2024). The Project site has little topographic relief and is at an elevation of 353–361 feet above mean sea level (Google 2024).

**Table 1.** Special-status species, their listing status, habitats, and potential to occur on or near the Project site.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
<b>Federally and State-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species</b>			
California jewelflower ( <i>Caulanthus californicus</i> )	FE, SE, 1B.1	Chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland at 150–3300 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.
Greene’s tuctoria ( <i>Tuctoria greenei</i> )	FE, SR, 1B.1	Vernal pools below 3500 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and vernal pools were not present.
Hoover’s spurge ( <i>Euphorbia hooveri</i> )	FT, 1B.2	Vernal pools below 820 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and vernal pools were not present.
Kaweah brodiaea ( <i>Brodiaea insignis</i> )	SE, 1B.2	Foothill woodlands at 650–1650 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.
Lassics lupine ( <i>Lupinus constancei</i> )	FE, SE, 1B.1	Serpentine barrens, openings in lower montane coniferous forest at 4900–6600 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, lacks serpentine soils, and is outside the known range of this species.
San Joaquin adobe sunburst ( <i>Pseudobahia peirsonii</i> )	FT, SE, 1B.1	Grassland with bare dark clay soils at 300–2700 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked clay soils.
San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass ( <i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i> )	FT, SE, 1B.1	Vernal pools below 2700 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and vernal pools were not present.
Striped adobe-lily ( <i>Fritillaria striata</i> )	ST, 1B.1	Adobe clay soils below 3280 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked adobe clay soils.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
Crotch bumble bee <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Bombus crotchii</i> )	SC	Open grassland and scrub habitats with <i>Antirrhinum</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , <i>Clarkia</i> , <i>Dendromecon</i> , <i>Eschscholzia</i> , and <i>Eriogonum</i> as food plants and rodent burrows for nesting.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked potential food plants.
Monarch California overwintering population ( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )	FC	Groves of trees within 1.5 miles of the ocean that produce suitable micro-climates for overwintering such as high humidity, dappled sunlight, access to water and nectar, and protection from wind.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site is not within 1.5 miles of the ocean.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	FT	Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus</i> sp.) plants having basal stem diameter greater than 1" at ground level.	<b>None.</b> No elderberry shrubs were found in the survey area, and the Project site is outside the currently recognized range of this species.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	FT	Vernal pools; some artificial depressions, ditches, stock ponds, vernal swales, ephemeral drainages, and seasonal wetlands.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and vernal pools or other ephemeral pools were not present.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardi</i> )	FE	Vernal pools, clay flats, alkaline pools, and ephemeral stock tanks.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and vernal pools were not present.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
California tiger salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> )	FT, ST	Vernal pools or seasonal ponds for breeding; small mammal burrows for upland refugia in natural grasslands.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; ponds within the 1.24-mile dispersal distance of this species included a sewage treatment pond and agricultural water storage ponds. According to historic Google Earth imagery (Google 2024), the agricultural storage ponds are usually dry during the California tiger salamander breeding and larval period.
Foothill yellow-legged frog - south Sierra DPS ( <i>Rana boylei</i> )	FE, SE	Perennial streams and rivers with rocky substrates and open, sunny banks in forests, chaparral, or woodlands.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; no perennial drainages with rocky substrates were present in the survey area.
Western spadefoot ( <i>Spea hammondi</i> )	FPT, SSSC	Open areas with sandy or gravelly soil that allow rain pools to gather for breeding.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; no rain pools or other potential breeding habitat was present in the survey area.
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard ( <i>Gambelia sila</i> )	FE, SE, FP	Upland scrub and sparsely vegetated grassland with small mammal burrows.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.
Northwestern pond turtle <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Actinemys marmorata</i> )	FPT, SSSC	Ponds, rivers, marshes, streams, and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation. Basking sites and suitable upland areas for egg laying.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site and surrounding areas lacked the permanent or nearly permanent aquatic habitat this species requires.
California condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	FE, SE, FP	Mountain and foothill rangeland with cliffs for nesting and grassland and open woodland for foraging.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site and surrounding areas lacked nesting and foraging habitat.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	ST	Large trees for nesting with adjacent grasslands, alfalfa fields, or grain fields for foraging.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and the surrounding land cover within the 0.5-mile survey area was dominated by incompatible orchards and residential development.
Tricolored blackbird ( <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> )	ST, SSSC	Freshwater emergent wetlands, some agricultural fields, grassland, and silage fields near dairies.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the survey area lacked freshwater emergent wetlands, agricultural fields, grassland, and silage fields.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> )	FT, SE	Open woodlands with dense, low vegetation along waterways.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the survey area lacked waterways with associated riparian vegetation.
Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew ( <i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i> )	FE, SSSC	Moist riparian, wetlands, grasslands, and upland scrub with abundant leaf litter and dense herbaceous cover.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site is outside the current known range of this species.
San Joaquin kit fox <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	FE, ST	Grassland and upland scrub and fallowed agricultural lands adjacent to natural grasslands or upland scrub.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked burrows and adjacent natural grassland or upland scrub.
Tipton kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i> )	FE, SE	Grassland and upland scrub with sparse to moderate shrub cover and saline soils; also fallowed agricultural fields adjacent to natural grasslands or upland scrub.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
<b>State Species of Special Concern</b>			
Northern California legless lizard <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Anniella pulchra</i> )	SSSC	Moist warm loose soil with plant cover in beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, sandy areas, and stream terraces.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.
Northern leopard frog ( <i>Lithobates pipiens</i> )	SSSC	Wet meadows, canals, bogs, marshes, and reservoirs in grassland, forest, and woodland.	<b>None.</b> All Tulare County records of this species pertain to introduced, nonnative individuals.
Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	SSSC	Grassland and upland scrub with friable soil; some open agricultural or other developed and disturbed areas with ground squirrel burrows.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site lacked grassland or upland scrub with friable soil or suitable areas.
American badger <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Taxidea taxus</i> )	SSSC	Variable. Vast open, dry areas with friable soils and small mammal populations in grassland, conifer forest, and desert.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site lacked the vast open areas with small mammal populations this species requires.
Pallid bat <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> )	SSSC	Arid or semi-arid locations in rocky areas and sparsely vegetated grassland near water. Rock crevices, caves, mine shafts, bridges, building, and tree hollows for roosting.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; no roosting habitat was observed in the survey area.
Western mastiff bat ( <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> )	SSSC	Cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels near open, arid areas.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; no roosting habitat was observed in the survey area.
<b>California Rare Plants</b>			
Alkali sink goldfields <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Lasthenia chrysantha</i> )	1B.1	Vernal pools and wet saline flats below 320 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; no vernal pool or wet saline flat habitats were present in the survey area.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
Brittlescale <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Atriplex depressa</i> )	1B.2	Alkaline or clay soils in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools below 1000 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard.
Calico monkeyflower ( <i>Diplacus pictus</i> )	1B.2	Bare, sunny, shrubby areas around granite outcrops in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains at 442–4100 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the survey area lacked granite outcrops and was below the known elevational range for this species.
California alkali grass ( <i>Puccinellia simplex</i> )	1B.2	Saline flats and mineral springs below 3000 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked saline flats and mineral springs.
California satintail <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Imperata brevifolia</i> )	2B.1	Moist to wet sites in arid desert canyons or rocky slopes near seeps, springs, and streams below 1700 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked natural landcover and vegetated moist to wet sites.
Coulter's goldfields ( <i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> )	1B.1	Saltmarsh, playas, and vernal pools below 4000 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the survey area lacked saltmarsh, playas, and vernal pools.
Earlimart orache ( <i>Atriplex cordulata</i> var. <i>erecticaulis</i> )	1B.2	Saline or alkaline soils in valley and foothill grassland below 230 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked saline or alkaline soils.
Lesser saltscale ( <i>Atriplex minuscula</i> )	1B.1	Sandy, alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, playa, and grassland in the San Joaquin Valley below 328 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked sandy, alkaline soils in chenopod scrub, playa, or grassland.
Recurved larkspur ( <i>Delphinium recurvatum</i> )	1B.2	Poorly drained, fine, alkaline soils in grassland and saltbush scrub at 98–1969 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard and lacked poorly drained, fine, alkaline soils in grassland.



Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
Sanford's arrowhead ( <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> )	1B.2	Ponds, sloughs, and ditches below 650 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, and no freshwater marshes or other suitable aquatic features were present in the survey area.
Spiny-sepaed button-celery <sup>3</sup> ( <i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i> )	1B.2	Vernal pools, swales, and roadside ditches in valley and foothill grassland.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site lacked grassland, vernal pools, swales, or roadside ditches.
Subtle orache ( <i>Atriplex subtilis</i> )	1B.2	Saline depressions below 230 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site was a walnut orchard, lacked saline depressions, and is above the known elevational range of this species.
Vernal pool smallscale ( <i>Atriplex persistens</i> )	1B.2	Alkaline vernal pools in the below 377 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site lacked vernal pools.
Winter's sunflower ( <i>Helianthus winteri</i> )	1B.2	Steep, south-facing grassy slopes, rock outcrops, and road cuts at 590–1509 feet elevation.	<b>None.</b> Habitat lacking; the Project site lacked south-facing grassy slopes, rock outcrops, or road cuts and is below the elevational range of this species

CDFW (2024), CNPS (2024), USFWS (2024a).

Status <sup>1</sup>	Potential to Occur <sup>2</sup>
FC = Federal Candidate for listing	None: Species or sign not observed; conditions unsuitable for occurrence.
FE = Federally listed as Endangered	Low: Neither species nor sign observed; conditions marginal for occurrence.
FT = Federally listed as Threatened	Moderate: Neither species nor sign observed; conditions suitable for occurrence.
FPT = Federally Proposed Threatened	High: Neither species nor sign observed; conditions highly suitable for occurrence.
FP = State Fully Protected	Present: Species or sign observed; conditions suitable for occurrence.
SC = State Candidate for listing	
SE = State listed as Endangered	
ST = State listed as Threatened	
SSSC = State Species of Special Concern	



CNPS California Rare Plant Rank <sup>1</sup> :	Threat Ranks <sup>1</sup> :
1B – plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.	0.1 – seriously threatened in California (> 80% of occurrences).
2B – plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	0.2 – moderately threatened in California (20–80% of occurrences).
3 – plants about which more information is needed.	0.3 – not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences).
4 – plants have limited distribution in California.	

<sup>3</sup>Record from within 5 miles of the Project site.

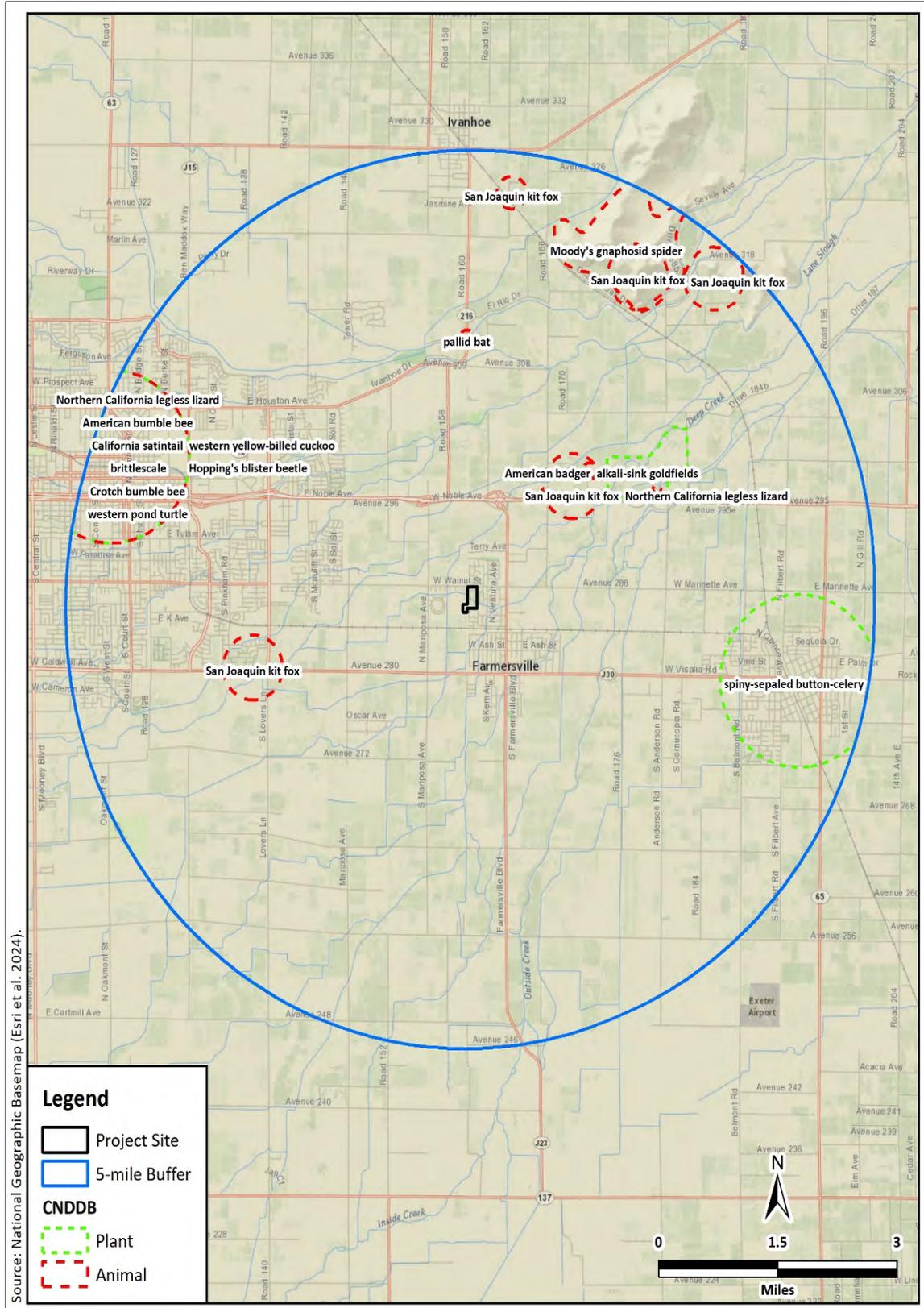


Figure 4. CNDDB occurrence map.



## **3.2 Reconnaissance Survey**

### **3.2.1 Land Use and Habitats**

The Project site consisted of an irrigated, maintained walnut orchard (Figures 5 and 6). Ruderal herbaceous vegetation was distributed throughout the Project site. The site was bordered by residential development to the north, south, and east and a walnut orchard to the west (Figures 7–9). Aerial imagery indicates the Project site has been used for agricultural production since at least 1994 (Google 2024).

An approximately 0.14-mile section of an irrigation ditch (a distributary of Extension Ditch) diagonally crosses the central portion of the Project site (Figure 10). The Kaweah River via Deep Creek, northeast of the Project site, appears to be the source of the water for Extension Ditch. The ditch contained flowing water at time of the 8 May 2024 reconnaissance survey. The ditch was well maintained and lacked terrestrial or aquatic vegetation. Through a series of interconnected ditches, the ditch appears to be hydrologically connected to the Tule River, which drains to Tulare Lake more than 20 miles southwest of the Project site.



**Figure 5.** Photograph from the northwest corner of the Project site, looking south, showing a walnut orchard.



**Figure 6.** Photograph from the southeast corner of the Project site, looking northwest, showing a walnut orchard.



**Figure 7.** Photograph from the northeast corner of the Project site, looking north, showing residential development to the north.



**Figure 8.** Photograph from the southeast corner of the Project site, looking south, showing residential development to the south.



**Figure 9.** Photograph from the southwest corner of the Project site, looking northwest, showing a walnut orchard to the west.



**Figure 10.** Photograph of the irrigation ditch in the central portion of the Project site.



### 3.2.2 Plant and Animal Species Observed

A total of 10 plant species (one native and nine nonnative), 15 bird species, one reptile species, and one mammal species were observed during the survey (Table 2).

**Table 2.** Plant and animal species observed during the reconnaissance survey.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
<b>Plants</b>		
<b>Family Asteraceae</b>		
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Nonnative
Spiny sowthistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Brassicaceae</b>		
Lesser swine cress	<i>Lepidium didymum</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Fabaceae</b>		
California burclover	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Poaceae</b>		
Rescue grass	<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Nonnative
Foxtail barley	<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	Native
Foxtail brome	<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	Nonnative
Perennial false brome	<i>Brachypodium phoenicoides</i>	Nonnative
Ripgut brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Polygonaceae</b>		
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Nonnative
<b>Birds</b>		
<b>Family Aegithalidae</b>		
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Bombycillidae</b>		
Cedar waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Cardinalidae</b>		
Black-headed grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	MBTA, CFGC



Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
<b>Family Cathartidae</b>		
Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Columbidae</b>		
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Corvidae</b>		
American crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	MBTA, CFGC
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	MBTA, CFGC
California scrub-jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Fringillidae</b>		
House finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	MBTA, CFGC
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Passeridae</b>		
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Picidae</b>		
Northern flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Sturnidae</b>		
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Nonnative
<b>Family Trochilidae</b>		
Anna's hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Family Tyrannidae</b>		
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	MBTA, CFGC
<b>Reptiles</b>		
<b>Family Phrynosomatidae</b>		
Side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	--
<b>Mammals</b>		
<b>Family Sciuridae</b>		
California ground squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	--

MBTA = Protected under the MBTA (16 USC § 703 et seq.); CFGC = Protected under CFGC §§ 3503 and 3513



### **3.2.3 Nesting Birds**

Migratory birds could nest on or near the Project site. Bird species that may nest on or near the property include, but are not limited to, California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). Large trees within 0.5 miles of the Project site could provide nesting substrates for raptors.

### **3.2.4 Regulated Habitats**

An irrigation ditch, a distributary of Extension Ditch, bisects the Project site, with flows entering the east side of the Project site and exiting on its west side (Figure 10). The ditch is listed in the National Wetlands Inventory as riverine with a classification of R5UBFx, which means unknown perennial, unconsolidated bottom, semipermanently flooded, and excavated (USFWS 2024b). The ditch contained flowing water during the 8 May 2024 reconnaissance survey (Figure 10). As the feature contains surface water, it is likely regulated by the SWRCB. Since the ditch is classified as a stream, it would be regulated by the CDFW under California Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et sec. As this ditch appears to be hydrologically connected to the Tule River and Tulare Lake, it would likely also fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of the USACE.

### **3.2.5 Special-Status Species**

No special-status species are expected on or near the Project site based on the absence of habitat for such species.



## 4.0 Environmental Impacts

### 4.1 Significance Determinations

This Project, which will result in temporary and permanent impacts to orchard, will not: (1) substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species (criterion a) as no such habitat is present on the Project site; (2) cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels (criterion b) as no such potentially vulnerable population is known from the area; (3) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community (criterion c) as no such potentially vulnerable communities are known from the area; (4) substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal (criterion d) as no such potentially vulnerable species are known from the area; (5) 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 (significance criterion e) as no such species are expected to occur on or near the Project site; (6) 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 (criterion f) as no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community was present in the survey area; (7) have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means (criterion g) as no impacts to wetlands will occur; (8) conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (criterion i) as no such ordinances are pertinent to the Project; or (9) conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan (criterion j) as no such plan has been adopted. Thus, these significance criteria are not analyzed further.

The remaining statutorily defined criterion provides the framework for Criterion BIO1 below. This criterion is used to assess the impacts to biological resources stemming from the Project and provide the basis for determinations of significance:

- **Criterion BIO1:** 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 (significance criterion h).



## **4.1.1 Direct and Indirect Effects**

### **4.1.1.1 Potential Effect #1: Interfere Substantially with Native Wildlife Movements, Corridors, or Nursery Sites (Criterion BIO1)**

The Project has the potential to impede the use of nursery sites for native birds protected under the MBTA and CFGC. Migratory birds are expected to nest on and near the Project site. Construction disturbance during the breeding season could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to nest abandonment. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment or loss of reproductive effort can be considered take under the MBTA and CFGC. Loss of fertile eggs or nesting birds, or any activities resulting in nest abandonment, could constitute a significant effect if the species is particularly rare in the region. Construction activities such as excavating, trenching, and grading that disturb a nesting bird on the Project site or immediately adjacent to the construction zone could constitute a significant effect. We recommend that the mitigation measure BIO2 (below) be included in the conditions of approval to reduce the potential effect to a less-than-significant level.

#### **Mitigation Measure BIO1. Protect nesting birds.**

1. To the extent practicable, construction shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season, which extends from February through August.
2. If it is not possible to schedule construction between September and January, pre-construction surveys for nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that no active nests will be disturbed during the implementation of the Project. A pre-construction survey shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities. During this survey, the qualified biologist shall inspect all potential nest substrates in and immediately adjacent to the impact areas. If an active nest is found close enough to the construction area to be disturbed by these activities, the qualified biologist shall determine the extent of a construction-free buffer to be established around the nest. If work cannot proceed without disturbing the nesting birds, work may need to be halted or redirected to other areas until nesting and fledging are completed or the nest has otherwise failed for non-construction related reasons.



## 5.0 Literature Cited

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**Appendix A.** USFWS list of threatened and endangered species.



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office  
Federal Building  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846  
Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To:

05/07/2024 12:46:49 UTC

Project Code: 2024-0086594

Project Name: Farmersville Residential Development Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf>

**Migratory Birds:** In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office**

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

(916) 414-6600

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0086594

Project Name: Farmersville Residential Development Project

Project Type: Residential Construction

Project Description: The proposed project will involve constructing a 115-unit single-family residential development on approximately 22.2 acres. The subdivision will include new residential streets, a park, and a detention basin. The project site is south of the intersection of West Walnut Avenue and North June Avenue near Farmersville in northwestern Tulare County, California.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.310181299999996,-119.21476997293023,14z>



Counties: Tulare County, California

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 11 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

**MAMMALS**

NAME	STATUS
Buena Vista Lake Ornate Shrew <i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1610">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1610</a>	Endangered
San Joaquin Kit Fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2873</a>	Endangered
Tipton Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7247">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7247</a>	Endangered

**BIRDS**

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193</a>	Endangered

**REPTILES**

NAME	STATUS
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard <i>Gambelia silus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/625">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/625</a>	Endangered
Northwestern Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111</a>	Proposed Threatened

**AMPHIBIANS**

NAME	STATUS
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> Population: U.S.A. (Central CA DPS) There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076</a>	Threatened
Western Spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425</a>	Proposed Threatened

**INSECTS**

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498</a>	Threatened

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Lassics Lupine <i>Lupinus constancei</i> Population: There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7976">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7976</a>	Endangered

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **Appendix B.** CNDDDB occurrence records.



# Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



**Query Criteria:** Quad

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b>alkali-sink goldfields</b> <i>Lasthenia chrysantha</i>	PDAST5L030	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<b>American badger</b> <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<b>American bumble bee</b> <i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i>	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
<b>An andrenid bee</b> <i>Andrena macswaini</i>	IIHYM35130	None	None	G2	S2	
<b>brittlescale</b> <i>Atriplex depressa</i>	PDCHE042L0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b>burrowing owl</b> <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
<b>calico monkeyflower</b> <i>Diplacus pictus</i>	PDSCR1B240	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b>California alkali grass</b> <i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	PMPOA53110	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b>California jewelflower</b> <i>Caulanthus californicus</i>	PDBRA31010	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>California linderiella</b> <i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
<b>California satintail</b> <i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	PMPOA3D020	None	None	G3	S3	2B.1
<b>California tiger salamander - central California DPS</b> <i>Ambystoma californiense pop. 1</i>	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
<b>Coulter's goldfields</b> <i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	PDAST5L0A1	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1
<b>Crotch's bumble bee</b> <i>Bombus crotchii</i>	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
<b>Earlimart orache</b> <i>Atriplex cordulata var. erecticaulis</i>	PDCHE042V0	None	None	G3T1	S1	1B.2
<b>foothill yellow-legged frog - south Sierra DPS</b> <i>Rana boylei pop. 5</i>	AAABH01055	Endangered	Endangered	G3T2	S2	
<b>great blue heron</b> <i>Ardea herodias</i>	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	



**Selected Elements by Common Name**  
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**California Natural Diversity Database**



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b>Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest</b> <i>Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest</i>	CTT61430CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>Greene's tuctoria</b> <i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	PMPOA6N010	Endangered	Rare	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>Hoover's spurge</b> <i>Euphorbia hooveri</i>	PDEUP0D150	Threatened	None	G1	S1	1B.2
<b>Hopping's blister beetle</b> <i>Lytta hoppingi</i>	IICOL4C010	None	None	G1G2	S2	
<b>Kaweah brodiaea</b> <i>Brodiaea insignis</i>	PMLIL0C060	None	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.2
<b>lesser saltscale</b> <i>Atriplex minuscula</i>	PDCHE042M0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<b>molestan blister beetle</b> <i>Lytta molesta</i>	IICOL4C030	None	None	G2	S2	
<b>Moody's gnaphosid spider</b> <i>Talanites moodyae</i>	ILARA98020	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
<b>Northern California legless lizard</b> <i>Anniella pulchra</i>	ARACC01020	None	None	G3	S2S3	SSC
<b>Northern Claypan Vernal Pool</b> <i>Northern Claypan Vernal Pool</i>	CTT44120CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool</b> <i>Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool</i>	CTT44110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
<b>northern leopard frog</b> <i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	AAABH01170	None	None	G5	S2	SSC
<b>pallid bat</b> <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<b>recurved larkspur</b> <i>Delphinium recurvatum</i>	PDRAN0B1J0	None	None	G2?	S2	1B.2
<b>San Joaquin adobe sunburst</b> <i>Pseudobahia peirsonii</i>	PDAST7P030	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>San Joaquin kit fox</b> <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	AMAJA03041	Endangered	Threatened	G4T2	S3	
<b>San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly</b> <i>Rhaphiomidas trochilus</i>	IIDIP05010	None	None	G1	S1	
<b>San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass</b> <i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i>	PMPOA4G060	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<b>Sanford's arrowhead</b> <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<b>spiny-sepaled button-celery</b> <i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i>	PDAPI0Z0Y0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b>striped adobe-lily</b> <i>Fritillaria striata</i>	PMLIL0V0K0	None	Threatened	G1	S1	1B.1



**Selected Elements by Common Name**  
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**California Natural Diversity Database**



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<b>subtle orache</b> <i>Atriplex subtilis</i>	PDCHE042T0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
<b>Swainson's hawk</b> <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
<b>Sycamore Alluvial Woodland</b> <i>Sycamore Alluvial Woodland</i>	CTT62100CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>Tipton kangaroo rat</b> <i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i>	AMAFD03152	Endangered	Endangered	G3T1T2	S2	
<b>tricolored blackbird</b> <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
<b>Tulare cuckoo wasp</b> <i>Chrysis tularensis</i>	IIHYM72010	None	None	G1G2	S2	
<b>valley elderberry longhorn beetle</b> <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T3	S3	
<b>Valley Sacaton Grassland</b> <i>Valley Sacaton Grassland</i>	CTT42120CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<b>vernal pool fairy shrimp</b> <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
<b>vernal pool smallscale</b> <i>Atriplex persistens</i>	PDCHE042P0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<b>vernal pool tadpole shrimp</b> <i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G3	S3	
<b>western mastiff bat</b> <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
<b>western pond turtle</b> <i>Emys marmorata</i>	ARAAD02030	Proposed Threatened	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<b>western spadefoot</b> <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
<b>western yellow-billed cuckoo</b> <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
<b>Winter's sunflower</b> <i>Helianthus winteri</i>	PDAST4N260	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2

**Record Count: 54**



## **Appendix C.** CNPS plant list.



CNPS Rare Plant Inventory

Search Results

27 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: CRPR is one of [1A:1B:2A:2B:3:4:CBR] , 9-Quad include

[3611941:3611921:3611931:3611922:3611933:3611923:3611932:3611943:3611942]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED	PHOTO
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex cordulata</i></u></a> var. <a href="#"><u><i>erecticaulis</i></u></a>	Earlimart orache	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	Aug-Sep(Nov)	None	None	G3T1	S1	1B.2	Yes	2001-01-01	 © 2009 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex depressa</i></u></a>	brittlescale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	Apr-Oct	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2009 Zoya Akulova
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex minuscula</i></u></a>	lesser saltscale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	May-Oct	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2000 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex persistens</i></u></a>	vernal pool smallscale	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	Jun-Oct	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	2001-01-01	No Photo Available
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex subtilis</i></u></a>	subtle orache	Chenopodiaceae	annual herb	(Apr)Jun-Sep(Oct)	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	 © 2000 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.
<a href="#"><u><i>Brodiaea insignis</i></u></a>	Kaweah brodiaea	Themidaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Apr-Jun	None	CE	G1	S1	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2007 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.

<u><i>Caulanthus californicus</i></u>	California jewelflower	Brassicaceae	annual herb	Feb-May	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1984-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Convolvulus simulans</i></u>	small-flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2		1994-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Delphinium hansenii</i> ssp. <i>ewanianum</i></u>	Ewan's larkspur	Ranunculaceae	perennial herb	Mar-May	None	None	G4T3	S3	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Delphinium recurvatum</i></u>	recurved larkspur	Ranunculaceae	perennial herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2	Yes	1988-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Diplacus pictus</i></u>	calico monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2020 Matt C. Berger
<u><i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i></u>	spiny-sepaled button-celery	Apiaceae	annual/perennial herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1980-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Erythranthe sierrae</i></u>	Sierra Nevada monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jul	None	None	G2	S2	4.2	Yes	2013-10-02	 © 2014 Neal Kramer
<u><i>Euphorbia hooveri</i></u>	Hoover's spurge	Euphorbiaceae	annual herb	Jul-Sep(Oct)	FT	None	G1	S1	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
<u><i>Fritillaria agrestis</i></u>	stinkbells	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	Yes	1980-01-01	 © 2016 Aaron Schusteff
<u><i>Fritillaria striata</i></u>	striped adobe-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Feb-Apr	None	CT	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2013 Aaron Schusteff
<u><i>Goodmania luteola</i></u>	golden goodmania	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	None	None	G3	S3	4.2		1994-01-01	 © 2007 Steve Matson
<u><i>Helianthus winteri</i></u>	Winter's sunflower	Asteraceae	perennial shrub	Jan-Dec	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.2	Yes	2014-10-15	 © 2014 Chris Winchell

<i>Hordeum intercedens</i>	vernal barley	Poaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	3.2			1994- 01-01	No Photo Available
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	California satintail	Poaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Sep-May	None	None	G3	S3	2B.1			2006- 12-26	 © 2020 Matt C. Berger
<i>Lasthenia chrysantha</i>	alkali-sink goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Apr	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes		2019- 09-30	 © 2009 California State University, Stanislaus
<i>Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri</i>	Coulter's goldfields	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Jun	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.1			1994- 01-01	 © 2013 Keir Morse
<i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i>	San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Apr-Sep	FT	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes		1974- 01-01	No Photo Available
<i>Pseudobahia peirsonii</i>	San Joaquin adobe sunburst	Asteraceae	annual herb	Feb-Apr	FT	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes		1974- 01-01	No Photo Available
<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	California alkali grass	Poaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2			2015- 10-15	 © 2017 Chris Winchell
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead	Alismataceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent)	May- Oct(Nov)	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	Yes		1984- 01-01	 ©2013 Debra L. Cook
<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	Greene's tuctoria	Poaceae	annual herb	May- Jul(Sep)	FE	CR	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes		1974- 01-01	 ©2008 F. Gauna

Showing 1 to 27 of 27 entries

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