Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Orange
601 North Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: (Public Agency): CAL FIRE
c/o Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602
(Address)

Project Title: Addendum to Fire Adapted Portola Hills Project 5GA22224

Project Applicant: California Sustainability Group, Inc.

Project Location - Specific:

The project site is located in the Portola Hills neighborhood of the City of Lake Forest, C

Project Location - City: Lake Forest Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Four local Homeowners Associations in the Portola Hills Neighborhood in Lake Forest, California, including Canyon View Condominiums, Portola Hills II, Montecido at Portola Hills, and Bella Palermo, propose to remove existing ornamental landscaping throughout the neighborhood for fire remediation purposes. The grant's primary objective is to eliminate hazardous fuel from approximately 8.17 acres, or 355,502.6 square feet, on the interior slopes within 100 feet of structures to reduce the fuel load in these finger slopes directly connected to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Fire Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bethany Ross

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4, Sec 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed fuel reduction project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption Class 4 in that the project will not take threatened, endangered, or rare species or cause sedimentation into surface waters. The project consists of manipulated and exotic-dominated land cover types and is composed almost entirely of non-native weeds and ornamental/landscaped vegetation that are unlikely to support any threatened, endangered, or rare species. There are no state or federal jurisdictional areas and no surface waters, and therefore the project will not result in erosion or sedimentation into surface waters. In addition, the project site that will be impacted is located entirely on cut/fill slopes, not in native soils, and all vegetation removals will be done at the surface and above grade. Therefore, the project will also not impact cultural resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Hatch Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (714) 573-6178

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes ▪ No

Signature: _____ Date: June 6, 2024 Title: CEO

Signed by Lead Agency ▪ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

California Sustainability Group, Inc.
638 Camino De Los Mares
Suite H130-456
San Clemente, CA 92673
949-303-9689
grants@californiasustainabilitygroup.org

May 30, 2024

Scott Hatch
Wildland Resource Planner
Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road,
Irvine, CA 92602

Dear Scott Hatch:

The communities of the Fire Adapted Portola Hills CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Project, 5GA22224, were developed on manufactured slopes in the early 1990s. The community slopes were planted at development with non-native, ornamental plant palettes. The perimeter slopes of Portola Hills II have registered fuel modification plans for 170 feet from structures.

The non-native vegetation no longer meeting Orange County Fire Authority's Vegetation Management Guidelines will be removed from the treatment zones by flush cutting the plant above grade. Roots will be left intact and no work is to be done below grade. Due to the fact the project slopes are all cut and filled, there should be no degradation of cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Bethany Ross
CEO
California Sustainability Group, Inc.

Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Orange
601 North Ross Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

From: (Public Agency): CAL FIRE
c/o Orange County Fire Authority
1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602
(Address)

Project Title: Fire Adapted Portola Hills Project 5GA22224

Project Applicant: California Sustainability Group, Inc.

Project Location - Specific:

The project site is located in the Portola Hills neighborhood of the City of Lake Forest.

Project Location - City: Lake Forest Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

In partnership with the California Sustainability Group, Inc., four local Homeowners Associations in the Portola Hills Neighborhood in Lake Forest, California, including Canyon View Condominiums, Portola Hills II, Montecido at Portola Hills, and Bella Palermo, propose to remove existing ornamental landscaping throughout the neighborhood for fire remediation purposes. The grant's primary objective is to eliminate hazardous fuel from approximately 8.17 acres, or 355,502.6 square feet, on the interior slopes within 100 feet of structures to reduce the fuel load in these finger slopes directly connected to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Orange County Fire Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Bethany Ross

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4, Sec 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed fuel reduction project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption Class 4 in that the project will not take threatened, endangered, or rare species or cause sedimentation into surface waters. The project consists of manipulated and exotic-dominated land cover types and is composed almost entirely of non-native weeds and ornamental/landscaped vegetation that are unlikely to support any threatened, endangered, or rare species. There are no state or federal jurisdictional areas and no surface waters, and therefore the project will not result in erosion or sedimentation into surface waters.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Scott Hatch Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (714)573-6178

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes ▪ No

Signature: _____ Date: March 30, 2024 Title: CEO

Signed by Lead Agency ▪ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011

☐

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

MEMORANDUM

To: Orange County Clerk-Recorder, 601 North Ross Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Filing of Notice of Exemption in compliance with Section 15062 of Title 14 California Code of Regulations

Project Title: Fire Adapted Portola Hills Project

Project Location: The project site is located in the Portola Hills neighborhood of the City of Lake Forest, Orange County, California.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CAL FIRE

Exempt Status: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Class 4) – *Minor Alterations to Land*

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:
The proposed fuel reduction project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Categorical Exemption Class 4 in that the project will not take threatened, endangered, or rare species or cause sedimentation into surface waters. The project consists of manipulated and exotic-dominated land cover types and is composed almost entirely of non-native weeds and ornamental/landscaped vegetation that is unlikely to support any threatened, endangered, or rare species. There are no state or federal jurisdictional areas and no surface waters, and therefore the project will not result in erosion or sedimentation into surface waters.

Summary:
On behalf of CAL FIRE, the California Sustainability Group, Inc. plans to conduct removal of non-native, landscaped vegetation in the City of Lake Forest for fire remediation purposes through licensed subcontractors.

Description:
The Fire Adapted Portola Hills project, also known as the Portola Hills Neighborhood Fire Safe Project, will focus on bringing interior and exterior slopes into compliance with CAL FIRE and Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) standards for defensible space, concentrating on the removal of hazard fuels and the creation of vertical and horizontal spacing necessary to protect six inter-connected communities in the LRA Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Located in Trabuco Canyon and part of the City of Lake Forest, these communities have joined forces and partnered with neighboring landowners to protect the 2,192 homes within Portola Hills. The communities collaborating to build community resilience are Portola Hills II, Canyon Rim in Portola Hills, Bella Palermo, Montecido at Portola Hills, Canyon View Homeowners Associations and Portola Hills I. The neighborhoods were built in the 1980s and are located in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The community is located in the Saddleback Valley, adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest on the northern edge and the Whiting Ranch

5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 500, Santa Ana, CA 92707
Office: 949.472.3505 | Fax: 949.472.8373

Wilderness (county) Park to the West. In addition to protecting homes, the communities are seeking to protect continuity of government services provided by Portola Hills Elementary (Saddleback Valley Unified School District) and Orange County Fire Authority Station 42, both located in Portola Hills.

Access to these communities is limited to two main roads in and out of the canyon, Glenn Ranch Road and El Toro Road. Three significant fires have started within 5 miles of the project within the past five years, destroying 24,076 acres between the three fires. The Holy Fire in 2018 burned 4,000 acres and originated 4.14 miles from the project. The Silverado Fire in October 2020 burned 13,390 acres up to Foothill Ranch, a neighboring community, and originated approximately 4.14 miles away. In December of 2020, the Bond Fire originated within 3.95 miles, as the crow flies, and burned 6,686 acres. In 2007, the Santiago Fire originated in almost the same location as the Silverado Fire (4.14 miles from the project) and destroyed 28,445 acres. The communities were under mandatory evacuation as a result of three of the four fires. The probability of increased wildfires in the area is growing, as is the awareness of the need for home hardening and creation of defensible space to improve the survivability of homes and assist the fire authorities with better access in case of a fire.

The communities are proactive in efforts to reduce fire risk on their slopes and are working closely with the OCFA. Based on OCFA recommendations, they have been removing aged and overgrown *Acacia redolens* from exterior slopes since the Santiago Fire. The perimeter slopes are part of a fuel modification program established during the development of the community. Although originally approved, the acacia continues to age, creating a woody undergrowth, and within the next two years, they will no longer be compliant with original plans and OCFA Vegetation Management Guidelines. At that time, the acacia will need to be removed and replaced in accordance with original plant spacing requirements.

In 2016, OCFA advised Portola Hills II to start removing acacia from the interior slopes to create defensible space for homes. In 2020, OCFA formally required a removal plan which is currently in progress. The grant scope will be an accelerated continuation of this OCFA work plan, removing 22 acres of hazardous fuel.

The work in this project eliminates the hazardous material within 100 feet of the homes, creates shaded fuel breaks between the structures, and provides roadside hardening for evacuation purposes. The acacia at its current height is within four feet of many tree canopies located on interior slopes creating a fuel ladder. The removal of hazardous fuel in this project will be predominantly done via hand work due to limited access for the majority of the slopes. Hand clearing allows for more control, causing less damage to the current irrigation system, better protects the acacia root ball intended to be left in the ground intact to aide in slope stability, protects the existing trees to be left on the slope from root and trunk damage, and prevents soil compaction to promote healthier soil and better plant establishment. A forestry mulcher will be used when possible. Slopes will be cleared of all vegetation, debris, and duff. Duff and woody debris will be brought to a licensed green waste facility located within 10 miles of Trabuco Canyon where the debris will be composted and turned into mulch and soil amendments for local landscaping companies.

As described in the attached *Biological Resources Baseline Study*, the project consists of manipulated and exotic-dominated land cover types and is composed almost entirely of non-native weeds and ornamental/landscaped vegetation that is unlikely to support any threatened, endangered, or rare species. There are no state or federal jurisdictional areas and no surface waters, and therefore the project will not result in erosion or sedimentation into surface waters.

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL

We Make a Difference

March 11, 2024 JN 199394

CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABILITY GROUP, INC.
Bethany Ross
President/CEO
638 Camino de los Mares, Suite H130-456
San Clemente, CA 92673
OCFA Contract 5GA22224, Project 22-WP-ORC-4769081

SUBJECT: Results of a Biological Resources Baseline Study for the Fire Adapted Portola Hills Project – Lake Forest, Orange County, California

Dear Ms. Ross,

Michael Baker International, Inc. (Michael Baker is pleased to submit this biological resources baseline study to California Sustainability Group for the proposed Fire Adapted Portola Hills Project (project or project site located in Trabuco Canyon in the City of Lake Forest, Orange County, California. Michael Baker conducted a literature review and field survey to characterize existing biological conditions and assess the potential for the project to take special-status[1] plant and wildlife species. In order to meet the project's goal of achieving a Class 4 Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA , the project must not cause take of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or cause significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.

Project Location

The project site is generally located in the Portola Hills neighborhood of Trabuco Canyon in the City of Lake Forest, Orange County, California. The project is located in un-sectioned areas of Township 6 South, Range 7 West of the USGS *El Toro* and *Santiago Peak*, *California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps. The project consists of numerous proposed vegetation maintenance/removal sites all generally bounded by Santiago Canyon Road to the north, El Toro Road to the east, Glenn Ranch Road to the south, and the Santa Ana Mountain foothills to the west.

Project Description

In partnership with the California Sustainability Group, Inc., four local Homeowners Associations in the Portola Hills Neighborhood in Trabuco Canyon, California, including Canyon View Condominiums,

[1] As used in this report, "special-status" refers to plant and wildlife species that are Federally-/State-listed, proposed, or candidates; plant species that have been designated a California Rare Plant Rank species by the California Native Plant Society; wildlife species that are designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Fully Protected, Species of Special Concern, or Watch List species; and State/locally rare vegetation communities.

5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 500 | Santa Ana, CA 92707
Office: 949.472.3505 | Fax: 949.472.8373 | mbakerintl.com

Portola Hills II, Montecido at Portola Hills, and Bella Palermo, propose to remove existing ornamental landscaping throughout the neighborhood for fire remediation purposes.

Methodology

Literature Review and Records Searches

Records searches were conducted to determine which special-status plant and wildlife species have been recorded from the project vicinity within the USGS *El Toro* and *Santiago Peak, California* 7.5-minute quadrangles. The records search was achieved through a query of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database CNDDB; CDFW 2024 and the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California CIRP; CNPS 2024). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation IPaC) online environmental planning tool was also reviewed to identify protected biological resources falling under USFWS jurisdiction that are known or expected to occur on or within the project vicinity (USFWS 2024a . In addition, Michael Baker reviewed the USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System Critical Habitat Mapper USFWS 2024b), the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA Web Soil Survey (USDA 2024), and historic/current aerial photographs (Google, Inc. 2022 and Historicaerials.com 2024 .

Habitat Assessment

Two field surveys were conducted by Michael Baker senior biologist Mr. Ryan Winkleman on January 24 and January 31, 2024. The survey was conducted on both days between the hours of 0920 and 1310, with temperatures ranging from 58 to 69 degrees Fahrenheit, winds from 0-3 miles per hour on both days, and skies overcast on January 24 and partly cloudy on January 31. Vegetation communities occurring within the project site were mapped on an aerial photograph and classified in accordance with the vegetation descriptions provided in *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Sawyer *et al*., 2009) and cross referenced with the vegetation descriptions provided by Holland (1986). In addition, site characteristics such as soil condition, topography, hydrology, anthropogenic disturbances, indicator species, condition of on-site vegetation communities, and the presence of potentially regulated jurisdictional features were noted. Michael Baker used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) ArcView software to digitize the mapped vegetation communities and then transferred these data onto an aerial photograph to further document existing conditions and quantify the acreage of each vegetation community.

All wildlife species observed, as well as dominant plant species within each vegetation community, were recorded in a field notebook. Plant species observed during the field survey were identified by visual characteristics and morphology in the field, while unusual and less familiar plant species were photographed and later identified using taxonomical guides. Plant species that are considered ornamental were generally not identified, unless they were considered to be a dominant plant species on the project site. Plant nomenclature used in this memo report follows the Jepson Flora Project 2024 and scientific names are provided immediately following common names of plant species (first reference only). Wildlife detections were made through aural and visual detection, as well as observation of sign including scat, trails, tracks, burrows, and nests. Field guides used to assist with identification of species during the habitat assessment included *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley 2014 for birds, *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* (Stebbins 2003) for herpetofauna, and *A Field Guide to Mammals of North America* (Reid

2006). Although common names of wildlife species are well standardized, scientific names are provided immediately following common names of wildlife species in this report (first reference only .

Summary of Applicable Regulations

State

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA provides for the protection of the environment within the State of California by establishing State policy to prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures. This applies to actions directly undertaken, financed, or permitted by State lead agencies. Some projects may be determined to be "exempt" from CEQA if they fit certain project categories and meet certain requirements, e.g. no habitat present for special-status species. In this case, the project is attempting to meet the requirements of the Class 4 exemption for minor alterations to land including fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, or within 100 feet if the local fire protection agency has determined that 100 feet of clearance is necessary. To meet this exemption under biological resources, a project must demonstrate that implementation of the project will not result in the take of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters.

If a project is determined to be subject to CEQA, the lead agency will be required to conduct an Initial Study (IS); if the IS determines that the project may have significant impacts on the environment, the lead agency will subsequently be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A finding of no significant effects by the IS will require preparation of either a Negative Declaration or a Mitigated Negative Declaration instead of an EIR. Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines independently defines "endangered" species as those whose survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy, while "rare" species are defined as those who are in such low numbers that they could become endangered if their environment worsens.

Local

Central/Coastal Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan

The Central/Coastal Orange County Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in Orange County R.J. Meade 1996). The Orange County NCCP/HCP focuses on protection of coastal sage scrub habitat and three designated "Target Species": the coastal California gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica California*; a federally threatened species and California species of special concern SSC)), coastal cactus wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*; a California SSC , and orange-throated whiptail *Aspidoscelis hyperythra*; a California SSC). A Habitat Reserve area was created to meet the ecological requirements of these three 3) species and thirty-six 36) other "Identified Species," with the understanding that the three target species would serve as "surrogates" for the broader suite of organisms that depend upon coastal sage scrub for their continued survival in the NCCP/HCP planning area. The Implementing Agreement IA satisfies the State and federal mitigation requirements for designated development and adequately provides for the conservation and protection of the 39 species and their habitats identified in the NCCP/HCP.

Results

Existing Site Conditions

The project site is located at an elevation of approximately 1,100 to 1,400 feet above mean sea level, sloping gently downward from north to south but variable throughout, due to the nature of the project occurring primarily on landscaped slopes. Based on historic aerial imagery, the first parts of the Portola Hills neighborhood, which included the northernmost areas proposed for renovation, were built between 1985 and 1987 (Google, Inc. 2022; HistoricAerials.com 2024). The neighborhood was built out over the next several decades and is still currently under construction. The most recent construction inside of the project site occurred circa 2000 with the establishment of the slope along Malabar Road. The Portola Hills portion of the project site is completely surrounded by residential homes and is under regular maintenance by landscape contractors.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

One 1) land cover type was mapped within the proposed vegetation removal areas: landscaped/ornamental refer to Figure 2, *Vegetation Communities and Other Land Uses*). This land cover type is described in further detail below; it does not constitute suitable habitat for special-status species or qualify as a protected habitat type.

Landscaped/Ornamental

Approximately 19.10 acres of the project site were mapped as landscaped/ornamental, including all proposed removal areas within the Portola Hills neighborhood. While there are a number of ornamental species present across all vegetation patches within the project site, this cover type is overwhelmingly dominated by creeping acacia *Acacia redolens* and cape honeysuckle *Tecoma capensis*). Other subdominant ornamental plants present in this land cover type include silver senna *Senna artemisioides* , sweet alyssum *Lobularia maritima*), African daisy *Osteospermum* spp.), and cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* sp.). Tree cover over this community is generally sparse and mostly characterized by eucalyptus *Eucalyptus* sp. and Peruvian pepper *Schinus molle*), with lower numbers of coast live oaks. Native plants are very sparse within this land cover type and include prickly pear, coyote brush *Baccharis pilularis*), and toyon *Heteromeles arbutifolia* .

Wildlife

The project site is adjacent to areas of relatively undisturbed open space and as a result is host to a wide variety of wildlife species. A total of thirty-nine 39 wildlife species were detected during the field survey, including one 1 mammal, one 1 reptile, and thirty-seven 37 species of birds. None of the species that were detected are considered to be endangered, rare, or threatened.

Special-Status Biological Resources

Special-Status Plants

Thirty-three (33) special-status plant species were identified in the project vicinity by reviews of the CNDDB CIRP, and IPaC online databases refer to Attachments C through E). Of these 33 species, none are expected to occur within the project site based on a review of specific habitat preferences, known occurrences and distributions, and elevation ranges. Therefore, special-status plants are not considered to be a constraint to project implementation and take of special-status plants is not expected.

Special-Status Wildlife

Thirty-seven 37 special-status wildlife species were identified in the project vicinity by reviews of the CNDDB and IPaC online database (refer to Attachments C and E). Of these 37 species, none are expected to occur within the project site based on a review of specific habitat preferences, known occurrences and distributions, and elevation ranges. Therefore, special-status wildlife are not considered to be a constraint to project implementation and take of special-status wildlife is not expected.

Critical Habitat

According to the most recent final designations at the time of writing, the Canyon View Condominiums portion of the project site falls within designated Critical Habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica*; CAGN; a federally threatened species and California species of special concern) (USFWS 2024b). According to the latest Critical Habitat designation USFWS 2007), the primary constituent elements, or now referred to as physical and biological features (PBFs , for CAGN include the following:

- Dynamic and successional sage scrub habitats: Venturan coastal sage scrub, Diegan coastal sage scrub, Riversidean sage scrub, maritime succulent scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan scrub, southern coastal bluff scrub, and coastal sage-chaparral scrub in Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties that provide space for individual and population growth, normal behavior, breeding, reproduction, nesting, dispersal and foraging; and
- Non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, riparian areas, in proximity to sage scrub habitats as described for [PBF] 1 above that provide space for dispersal, foraging, and nesting.

The Canyon View Condominiums maintenance area is nearly entirely composed of ornamental species and is heavily dominated by acacia and silver senna with an overstory of Peruvian peppers, eucalyptus, and coast live oaks. It does not contain the PBFs necessary to support CAGN, does not meet the qualifications to be considered as true "critical habitat" for CAGN, and CAGN is not expected to occur in this area. Therefore, on-site Critical Habitat is not considered to be a constraint to project implementation.

State and Federal Jurisdictional Resources

There are no State or federal jurisdictional aquatic resources located within the project site and none would be directly impacted by the proposed project. Therefore, a jurisdictional delineation is not expected and State and/or federal jurisdictional aquatic resources are not considered to be a constraint to project implementation. Additionally, with a lack of aquatic features on-site, erosion or sedimentation of surface waters would not occur.

Orange County Central/Coastal NCCP/HCP

The Canyon View Condominiums portion of the project site falls within preserved areas of the Orange County Central/Coastal NCCP/HCP. The Canyon View Condominiums area falls within the Cook's Corner Existing Use Area, which is owned by local homeowner's associations. This Existing Use Area is intended to reinforce the primary linkage between the Central Subarea and the Southern NCCP Subregion, while also enhancing the nearby Habitat Reserve area. However, the portion of the Existing Use Area within the project site Canyon View Condominiums is heavily dominated by ornamental landscaping, the removal of which would have no direct effect on nearby native habitats or vegetation. No other portions of the project site fall within any preserved areas, contain any coastal sage scrub habitat or other covered habitat

types, contain any other special-status vegetation communities, or pose any other potential conflicts to the project's consistency with the NCCP/HCP. In addition, none of the three NCCP/HCP target species were found within the project site, and there is no suitable habitat for any of them within the project site. Therefore, the project is considered to be consistent with the NCCP/HCP. Other than implementation of Best Management Practices BMPs) and general compliance with standard environmental regulations such as those pertaining to protection of nesting birds, no additional mitigation pursuant to the NCCP/HCP is expected.

CEQA Class 4 Exemption

Eligibility for the CEQA Class 4 Exemption is contingent upon the project proponent demonstrating that proposed project activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. There is no suitable habitat within the proposed removal areas to support endangered, rare, threatened, or otherwise "special-status" plant or animal species, and nearly all plant species in the proposed removal areas are exotic and/or ornamental. Furthermore, there are no surface waters present in or around any of the proposed removal areas. Therefore, the project will not result in take of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters and will qualify for a CEQA Class 4 Exemption for fuel management activities.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the results of Michael Baker's literature review and vegetation mapping in January 2024, the entire project site consists of manipulated and exotic-dominated land cover types and is composed almost entirely of non-native weeds and ornamental vegetation. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed during the field surveys and there is no habitat within proposed vegetation removal areas suitable to support special-status species. Based on the results of the field survey and a review of specific habitat preferences, occurrence records, known distributions, and elevation ranges, it was determined that none of the special-status species identified by the CNDDB, CNPS, and IPaC are expected to occur within the project site, and the project site is not expected to support any special-status species. There are no state or federal jurisdictional areas and no surface waters, and therefore the project will not result in erosion or sedimentation of surface waters. Based on Michael Baker's assessment of the project site, the project qualifies for a Class 4 CEQA Exemption for fuel management in proximity to existing structures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 949) 533-0918 or ryan.winkleman@mbakerintl.com should you have any questions or require further information regarding this report.

Sincerely,

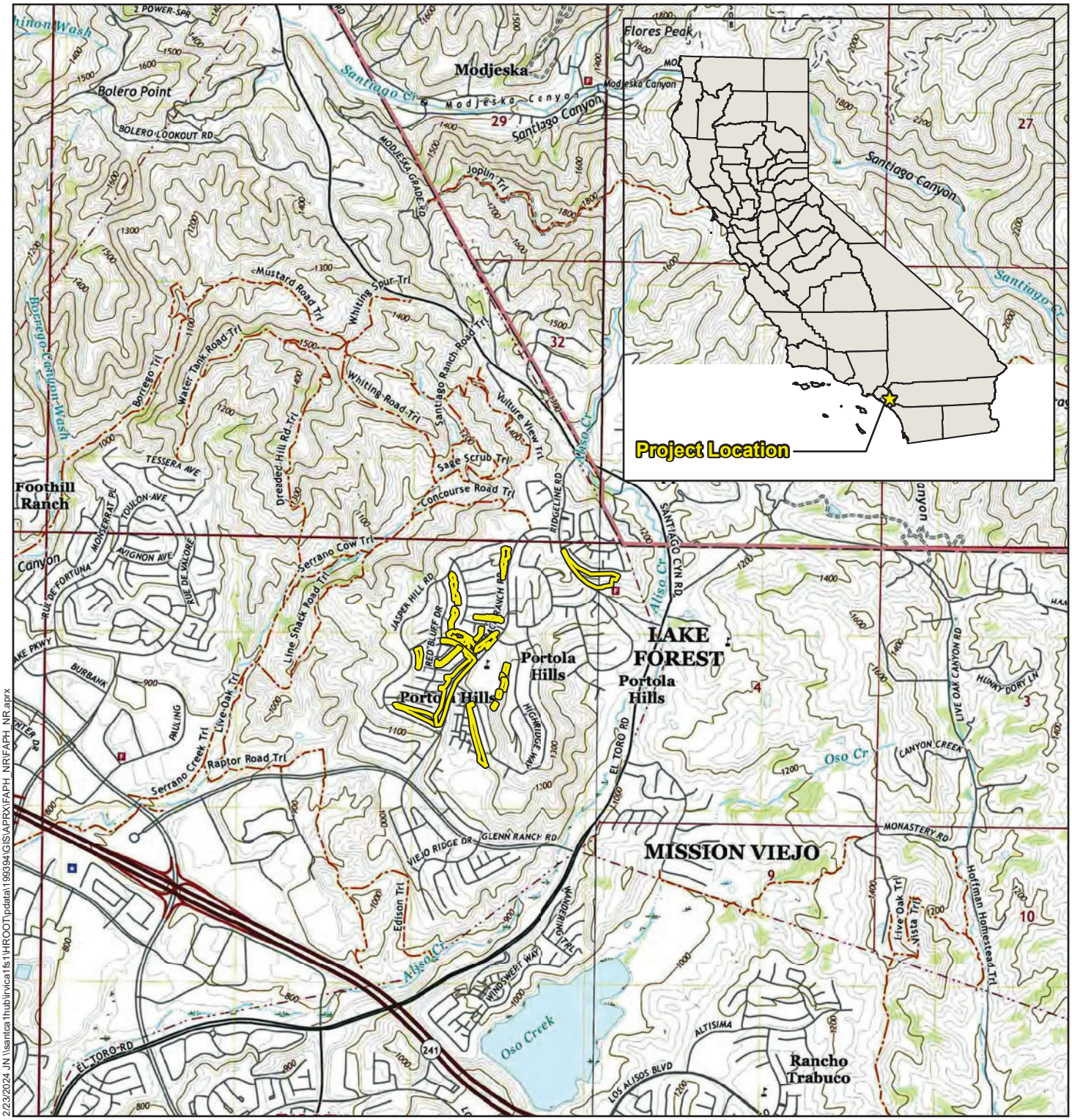
Ryan Winkleman
Senior Biologist/Project Manager
Natural Resources

Attachments:

A. Figures
B. Site Photographs

Attachment A

Figures



2/23/2024 JN \\santca1fshub\invca1fs1\HROOT\pdata\199394\GIS\APRX\FAPH_NR\FAPH_NR.aprx

Legend

Project Site

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

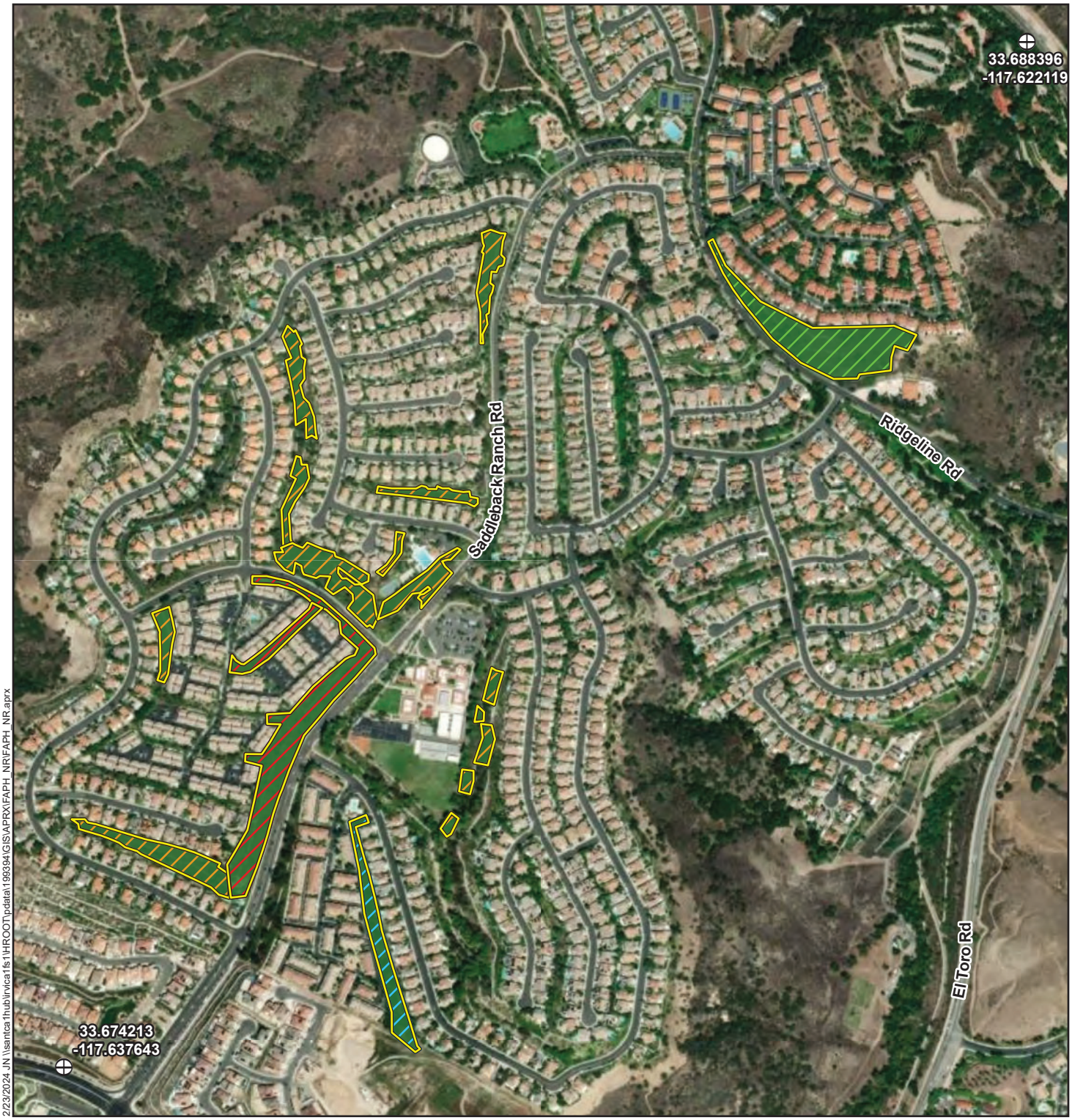
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Source: USGS 7.5-Minute topographic quadrangle maps: *Lake Forest and Santiago Peak, California (2022)*

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Regional and Project Vicinity

Figure 1



Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point
- Landscaped/Ornamental 19.10 acres)

Homeowners Associations

- Canyon View Condominiums 3.87 acres)
- Portola Hills II 8.16 acres)
- Montecido at Portola Hills (5.42 acres)
- Bella Palermo 1.65 acres)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 350 700 Feet

Source: Esri/Maxar (09/2022)

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Figure 2A

2/7/2024 JN \\santca1\hublirv\ca1fs11\HROOT\pdata\199394\GIS\APRX\FAPH_NR\FAPH_NR.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point
- Landscaped/Ornamental 3.87 acres)

Homeowners Association

- Canyon View Condominiums 3.87 acres)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

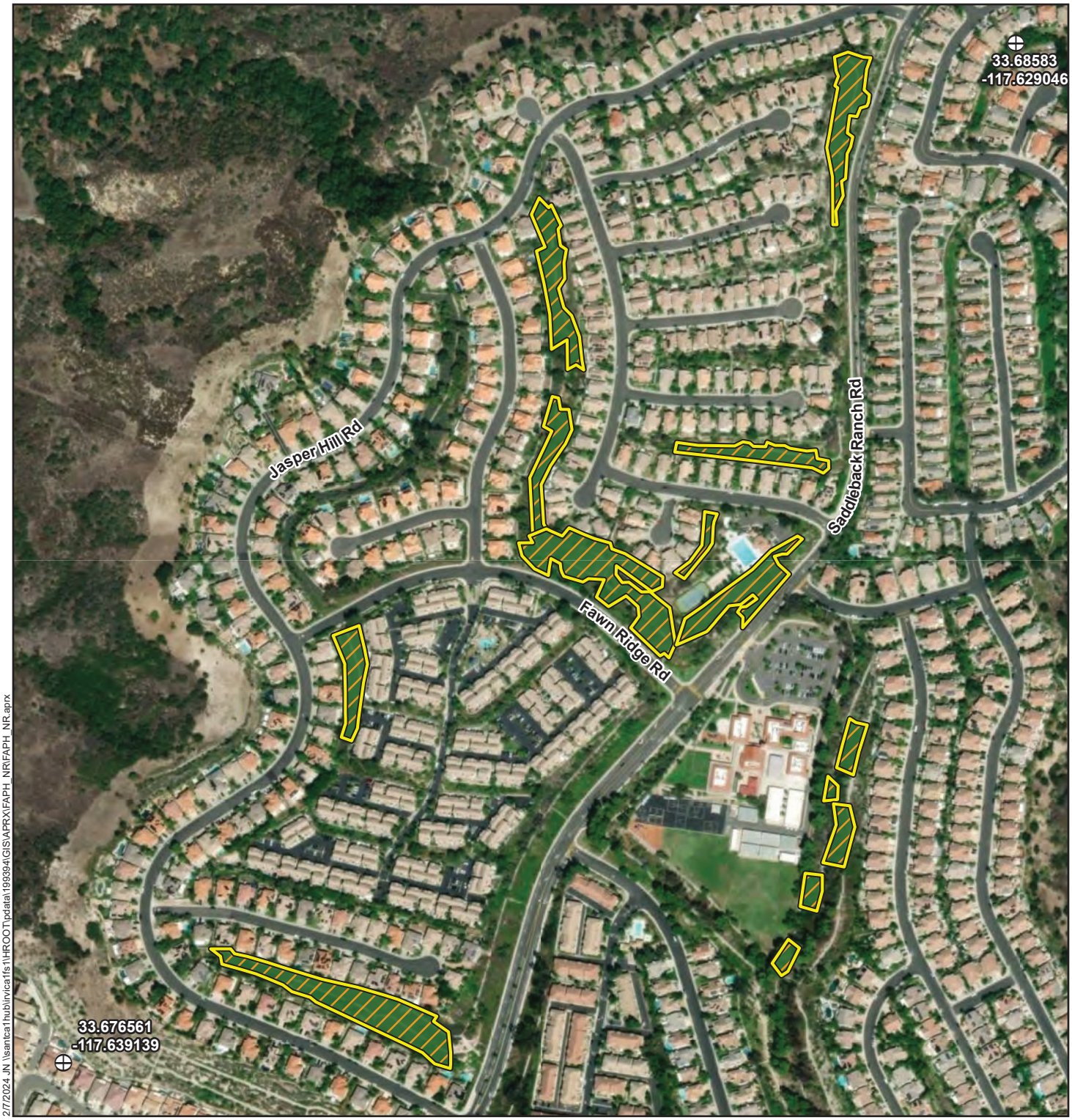
0 75 150 Feet

Source: Esri/Maxar (09/2022)

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Figure 2B



2/7/2024 JN \\santca1\hub\rvca1fs1\HROOT\pdata\199394\GIS\APRX\FAPH_NR\FAPH_NR.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point
- Landscaped/Ornamental 8.16 acres)

Homeowners Association

- Portola Hills II 8.16 acres)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

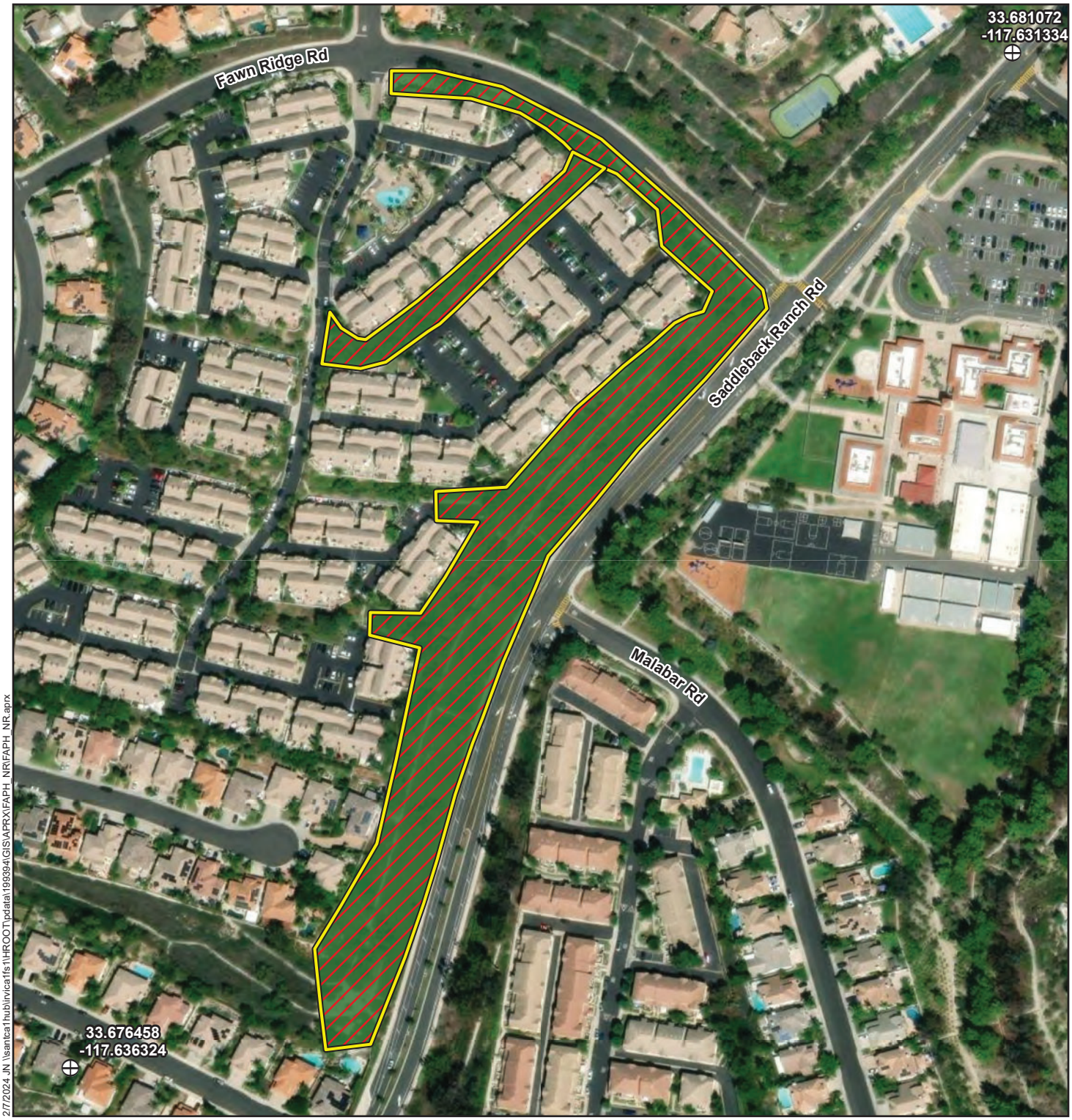
0 230 460 Feet

Source: Esri/Maxar (09/2022)

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Figure 2C



2/7/2024 JN \\santca1\hublirv\ca1fs1\HROOT\pdata\199394\GIS\APRX\FAPH_NR\FAPH_NR.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point
- Landscaped/Ornamental 5.42 acres)

Homeowners Association

- Montecido at Portola Hills (5.42 acres)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 115 230 Feet

Source: Esri/Maxar (09/2022)

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Figure 2D

2/7/2024 JN \\santca1\hublrv\ca1fs1\HROOT\pdata\199394\GIS\APRX\FAPH_NR\FAPH_NR.aprx

Legend

- Project Site
- Reference Point
- Landscaped/Ornamental 1.65 acres)

Homeowners Association

- Bella Palermo 1.65 acres)

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

0 80 160 Feet

Source: Esri/Maxar (09/2022)

FIRE ADAPTED PORTOLA HILLS PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES BASELINE STUDY

Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Figure 2E

Attachment B

Site Photographs

Photograph 1: West-facing view showing representative habitat from the northeastern corner of the Canyon View Condominiums removal area.

Photograph 2: East-facing view showing representative habitat from the southwestern corner of the Canyon View Condominiums removal area.

Photograph 3: Southwest-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Saddleback Ranch Slope removal area.

Photograph 4: West-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Chimney Rock Slope removal area.

Photograph 5: Southwest-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Dorado Slope removal areas.

Photograph 6: West-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Clubhouse Slope removal area.

Photograph 7: Northwest-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Brook Lane Slope removal area.

Photograph 8: West-facing view showing representative habitat within the Portola Hills II Millwood Slope removal area.

Photograph 9: West-facing view showing representative habitat within the Montecido at Portola Hills Saddleback Ranch Slope removal area.

Photograph 10: Southeast-facing view showing representative habitat within the Bella Palermo Genova Way Slope removal area.

Attachment C

CDFW CNDDB Species Lists

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (El Toro (3311766) OR Santiago Peak (3311765))
AND Taxonomic Group IS (Fish OR Amphibians OR Reptiles OR Birds OR Mammals OR Mollusks OR Arachnids OR Crustaceans OR Insects)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
Aimophila ruficeps canescens southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	ABPBX91091	None	None	G5T3	S4	WL
Ammodramus savannarum grasshopper sparrow	ABPBXA0020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Anaxyrus californicus arroyo toad	AAABB01230	Endangered	None	G2G3	S2	SSC
Anniella stebbinsi Southern California legless lizard	ARACC01060	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
Antrozous pallidus pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Arizona elegans occidentalis California glossy snake	ARADB01017	None	None	G5T2	S2	SSC
Aspidoscelis hyperythra orange-throated whiptail	ARACJ02060	None	None	G5	S2S3	WL
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri coastal whiptail	ARACJ02143	None	None	G5T5	S3	SSC
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
Bombus pensylvanicus American bumble bee	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
Buteo regalis ferruginous hawk	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis coastal cactus wren	ABPBG02095	None	None	G5T3Q	S2	SSC
Chaetodipus fallax fallax northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	AMAFD05031	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	
Circus hudsonius northern harrier	ABNKC11011	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Crotalus ruber red-diamond rattlesnake	ARADE02090	None	None	G4	S3	SSC

Selected Elements by Scientific 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
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
Emys marmorata western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	Proposed Threatened	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Eremophila alpestris actia California horned lark	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T4Q	S4	WL
Eumops perotis californicus western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G4G5T4	S3S4	SSC
Gila orcuttii arroyo chub	AFCJB13120	None	None	G2	S2	SSC
Icteria virens yellow-breasted chat	ABPBX24010	None	None	G5	S4	SSC
Neotoma lepida intermedia San Diego desert woodrat	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	AFCHA0209J	Endangered	Candidate Endangered	G5T1Q	S1	
Onychomys torridus ramona southern grasshopper mouse	AMAFF06022	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
Phrynosoma blainvillii coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Polioptila californica californica coastal California gnatcatcher	ABPBJ08081	Threatened	None	G4G5T3Q	S2	SSC
Rhinichthys osculus ssp. 8 Santa Ana speckled dace	AFCJB3705K	None	None	G5T1	S1	SSC
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea coast patch-nosed snake	ARADB30033	None	None	G5T4	S3	SSC
Setophaga petechia yellow warbler	ABPBX03010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Spea hammondii western spadefoot	AAABF02020	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
Streptocephalus woottoni Riverside fairy shrimp	ICBRA07010	Endangered	None	G1G2	S2	
Taricha torosa Coast Range newt	AAAAF02032	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Thamnophis hammondii two-striped gartersnake	ARADB36160	None	None	G4	S3S4	SSC
Vireo bellii pusillus least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S3	

Record Count: 37

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (El Toro (3311766) OR Santiago Peak (3311765))
 AND Taxonomic Group IS (Ferns OR Gymnosperms OR Monocots OR Dicots OR Lichens OR Bryophytes)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Astragalus brauntonii Braunton's milk-vetch	PDFAB0F1G0	Endangered	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Brodiaea filifolia thread-leaved brodiaea	PMLIL0C050	Threatened	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.1
Calochortus weedii var. intermedius intermediate mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D1J1	None	None	G3G4T3	S3	1B.2
Clinopodium chandleri San Miguel savory	PDLAM08030	None	None	G2G3	S2	1B.2
Comarostaphylis diversifolia ssp. diversifolia summer holly	PDERI0B011	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
Dudleya multicaulis many-stemmed dudleya	PDCRA040H0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Hesperocyparis forbesii Tecate cypress	PGCUP040C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Lepechinia cardiophylla heart-leaved pitcher sage	PDLAM0V020	None	None	G3	S2S3	1B.2
Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii Robinson's pepper-grass	PDBRA1M114	None	None	G5T3	S3	4.3
Monardella hypoleuca ssp. intermedia intermediate monardella	PDLAM180A4	None	None	G4T2?	S2?	1B.3
Monardella macrantha ssp. hallii Hall's monardella	PDLAM180E1	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.3
Nama stenocarpa mud nama	PDHYD0A0H0	None	None	G4G5	S1S2	2B.2
Nolina cismontana chaparral nolina	PMAGA080E0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Pentachaeta aurea ssp. allenii Allen's pentachaeta	PDAST6X021	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1
Phacelia keckii Santiago Peak phacelia	PDHYD0C4G1	None	None	G1	S1	1B.3
Senecio aphanactis chaparral ragwort	PDAST8H060	None	None	G3	S2	2B.2
Sidalcea neomexicana salt spring checkerbloom	PDMAL110J0	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2

Record Count: 17

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (El Toro (3311766) OR Santiago Peak (3311765))
 AND Taxonomic Group IS (Dune OR Scrub OR Herbaceous OR Marsh OR Riparian OR Woodland OR Forest OR Alpine OR Inland Waters OR Marine OR Estuarine OR Riverine OR Palustrine)

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Canyon Live Oak Ravine Forest	CTT61350CA	None	None	G3	S3.3	
Canyon Live Oak Ravine Forest						
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest						
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	CTT61330CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest						
Southern Riparian Scrub	CTT63300CA	None	None	G3	S3.2	
Southern Riparian Scrub						
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	CTT62400CA	None	None	G4	S4	
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland						
Valley Needlegrass Grassland	CTT42110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
Valley Needlegrass Grassland						

Record Count: 6

Attachment D

CNPS Species List

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS are Plant Inventory

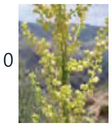
Search esults

33 matches found. Click on Scientific Name for details

Search Criteria: County is One of [3311766:33311765]

▲ 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
Astragalus brauntonii	Braunton's milkvetch	Fabaceae	perennial herb	Jan-Aug	FE	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2009 Thomas Stoughton
Brodiaea filifolia	thread-leaved brodiaea	Themidaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	Mar-Jun	FT	CE	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2016 Keir Morse
Calochortus catalinae	Catalina mariposa lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	(Feb)Mar-Jun	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	4.2	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus plummerae	Plummer's mariposa-lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Calochortus weedii var. intermedius	intermediate mariposa lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul	None	None	G3G4T3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Clinopodium chandleri	San Miguel savory	Lamiaceae	perennial shrub	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2G3	S2	1B.2	None	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Comarostaphylis diversifolia ssp. *diversifolia*	summer holly	Ericaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	Apr-Jun	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2	None	1980-01-01	No Photo Available
Convolvulus simulans	small flowered morning-glory	Convolvulaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	None	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Deinandra paniculata	paniculate tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr-Nov	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	None	2001-01-01	No Photo Available
Diplacus clevelandii	Cleveland's bush monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G4	S4	4.2	None	1980-01-01	 © 2020 W. Juerger Schreiber

Dudleya y F a F va f l a F	Santa M F onica F dudle a F	C a u F aceae F	p e ennia he F b F	Ma - F Jun F	F F	T F	None F	G5T1 F F	S1 F F	1B F 1	Ye F F	1974- F 01-01 F	No Photo F Available F						
Dudleya y F l F aul F	man F F y F temmed F dudle F a F	Cra F ulace F ae F	p erem F nial F herb F	A r- Jul F F	None F	None F	G2 y F	S2 F F	1B 2	Ye y F	1974- F 01-01 F	No Photo F Available F							
Dudleya F da F	tick dudle a F	Cra ulaceae	p erennial herb	Ma - Jun	None	None	G2 y F	S2 F	1B 2	Ye F	1974- F 01-01 F	No Photo F Available F							
Ery hran he F d ffu a y F	Palomar F monke flower F	Phr maceae F	annual herb y F	A F r- Jun F	None	None	G4 y F	S3 F	4 3 y F		1974- F 01-01 F	 Ron F Vanderhoff, F 2019 F							
He per ypar F f rbe i y F	Tecate c pre F	u re aceae C F	p erennial F evergreen tree y F		None	None	G2 y F	S2 F	1B 1 y F		1974- F 01-01 F	 © 2011 F Joe F Malone F							
Juglan F al f rn F a F	Southern F California F black walnut F	Juglandaceae	p erennial F deciduou tree F	Mar-Aug	None	None	G4 y F	S4 F	4 2 F	Ye F	1994- F 01-01 F	 © 2020 F Zo a F Akulova F							
Lepe h n a F ardp F hylla F	heart-leaved F itcher age F	Lamiaceae y F	erennial hrub	A r- F Jul F	None	None	G3 y F	S2S3	1B 2 y F		1974- F 01-01 F	 © 2003 F Vince F Scheidt F							
Lep d u F rg n F u F var F r b n n F	Robin on' F e F er-gra F	Bra icaceae F	annual herb y F	Jan-Jul F	None	None	G5T3 F	S3 F	4 3 y F		1994- F 01-01 F	 © 2015 Keir F Mor e F							
L l u F hu F ld b p ella u y F	ocellated F Humboldt lil F	Liliaceae y F	erennial F bulbiferou herb F	Mar- F Jul(Aug) F	None	None	G4T4?	S4?	4 2 F	Ye F	1980- F 01-01 F	 © 2008 Thoma F Stoughton F							
M nardella F hyp leu a p n er F d a e F	intermediate F monardella F	Lamiaceae y F	erennial F rhizomatou F herb y F	A F r- Se F	N F one	None	G4T2?	S2?	1B 3	Ye F	2012- F 10-16 F	 © 2016 F Ron F Vanderhoff F							
M nardella F ra ha F p hall y F	Hall' F monardella F	Lamiaceae y F	erennial F rhizom F atou F F herb y F	Jun-Oct	None	None	G5T3 F	S3 F	1B 3	Ye F	1974- F 01-01 F F	No F Photo F Available F							
Na F a F en arpa F	mud nama F	Namaceae y F	annual/ erennial herb y F	Jan-Jul F	None	None	G4G5	S1S2	2B 2 y F		1994- F 01-01 F	No Photo F Available y F							

l na0- 0 cs o n ana 0	p rr 0 0 nolin - 0	Rus0 e e 0	perenni l 0 evergreen s rub	(Mar May 0 Jul - 0	one	None 0	G3 0	S3 0	1 .2 0	Yes 0	2 01 1 01 0	 © 2 05 0 S n 0 Moni 0 Mouni ns 0 N tion l 0 Re re tion 0 Are 0
Pen chae - 0 aurea sp. a len i	A len's - 0 pen 0 e - 0	As-er 0e e a - 0	nnu l erb 0	M 0r Jun	None	None	G4T1 0	S1 0	1B.1 - 0	Yes 0	2 08 0 5 8 -	 ©2 08 Bob 0 Allen 0
Phacel a hubby 0	Hubby's 0 p eli 0	Hydrop yll e e	annu l erb 0	Apr Jul 0	None	None	G4 0	S4 0	4.2 0	Yes 0	2 07 0 2 02 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
Phacel a keck 0	S n i go Pe k 0 p eli 0	Hydrop yll e e	annu l erb 0	M 0y Jul	None	None	G1 0	S1 0	1B.3	Yes 0	198 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
P per a c 0per 0	p rr l rein 0 or id 0	Or id e e 0	perenni l erb	M r 0un	None	None	G3 0	S3S4	4.2 - 0		2 01 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
P per a 0 lep ope ala 0	n rrow 0 pe l ed rein 0 or id 0	Or id e e 0	perenni l erb	M y 0ul	None	None	G4 0	S4 0	4.3 0	Yes 0	2 01 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
Rh n r 0p s 0 c rnu a v r. 0 f sh ae 0	Fis 's 0 milkwor 0	Polyg l 0e e 0	perenni l 0 de iduous s rub 0	May Aug	None	None	G5T4 0	S4 0	4.3 0		1974 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
R 0 eya 0 c ul er - 0	Coul er's 0 m a ilij poppy 0	P p ver e e 0	perenni l 0 r izom a ous 0 erb 0	Mar 0 Jul(Aug) 0	None	None	G4 0	S4 0	4.2 - 0		1974 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
Senec 0 aphanac s 0	p rr l 0 r gwor 0	As er 0e e a - 0	nnu l erb 0	J n 0 Apr(May) 0	None	None	G3 0	S2 0	2B.2 0		1994 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
S dalcea 0 ne 0 x cana 0	s l spring 0 e kerbloom 0	Malv 0e e - 0	perenni l erb	M r 0un	None	None	G4 0	S2 0	2B.2 - 0		1994 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av il ble 0
V gu era -0 lac n a a - 0	S n Diego 0 Coun y 0 viguie 0r 0	As er e e 0	perenni l s rub	Feb 0 Jun(Aug) - 0	None	None	G4 0	S4 0	4.3 - 0		1974 0 1 01 0	No P o o 0 Av 0 0 ble 0

S owing 1 o 33 of 33 en ries 0

Suggested Citation: - 0

C liforni N t ive Pl n So ie y, R re Pl n Progr m. 2 24. R re Pl n Inven ory (online edi ion, v9.5). Websi e t ps: www.r repl n s. nps.org 0 [essed 6 Febru ry 2 24]. - 0

Attachment E

USFWS IPaC Species List

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Orange County, California

Local office

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

(760) 431-9440
(760) 431-5901

2177 Salk Avenue - Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008-7385

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. 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.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Southwestern Pond Turtle *Actinemys pallida* Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4768	Proposed Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Arroyo (=arroyo Southwestern) Toad *Anaxyrus californicus* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3762	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp *Streptocephalus woottoni* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Santa Monica Mountains Dudleyea *Dudleya cymosa ssp. ovatifolia* Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2538	Threatened
Thread-leaved Brodiaea *Brodiaea filifolia* Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6087	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

This location overlaps the critical habitat for the following species:

NAME	TYPE

Coastal California Gnatcatcher Polioptila californica californica https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178#crithab	Final

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos — Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

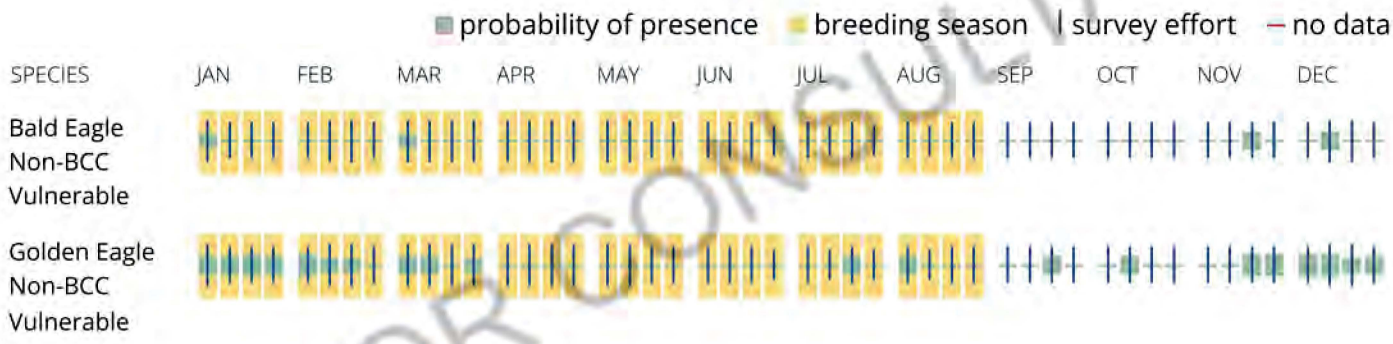
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid

cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Specifically, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around

your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Allen's Hummingbird *Selasphorus sasin* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9637	Breeds Feb 1 to Jul 15
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Belding's Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 15
Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9447	Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 31
Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
California Gull *Larus californicus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31

California Thrasher Toxostoma redivivum This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
Clark's Grebe Aechmophorus clarkii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
Common Yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas sinuosa This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2084	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464	Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481	Breeds elsewhere
Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410	Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656	Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi — Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Western Grebe aechmophorus occidentalis — Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743

Wrentit Chamaea fasciata — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence ( )

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

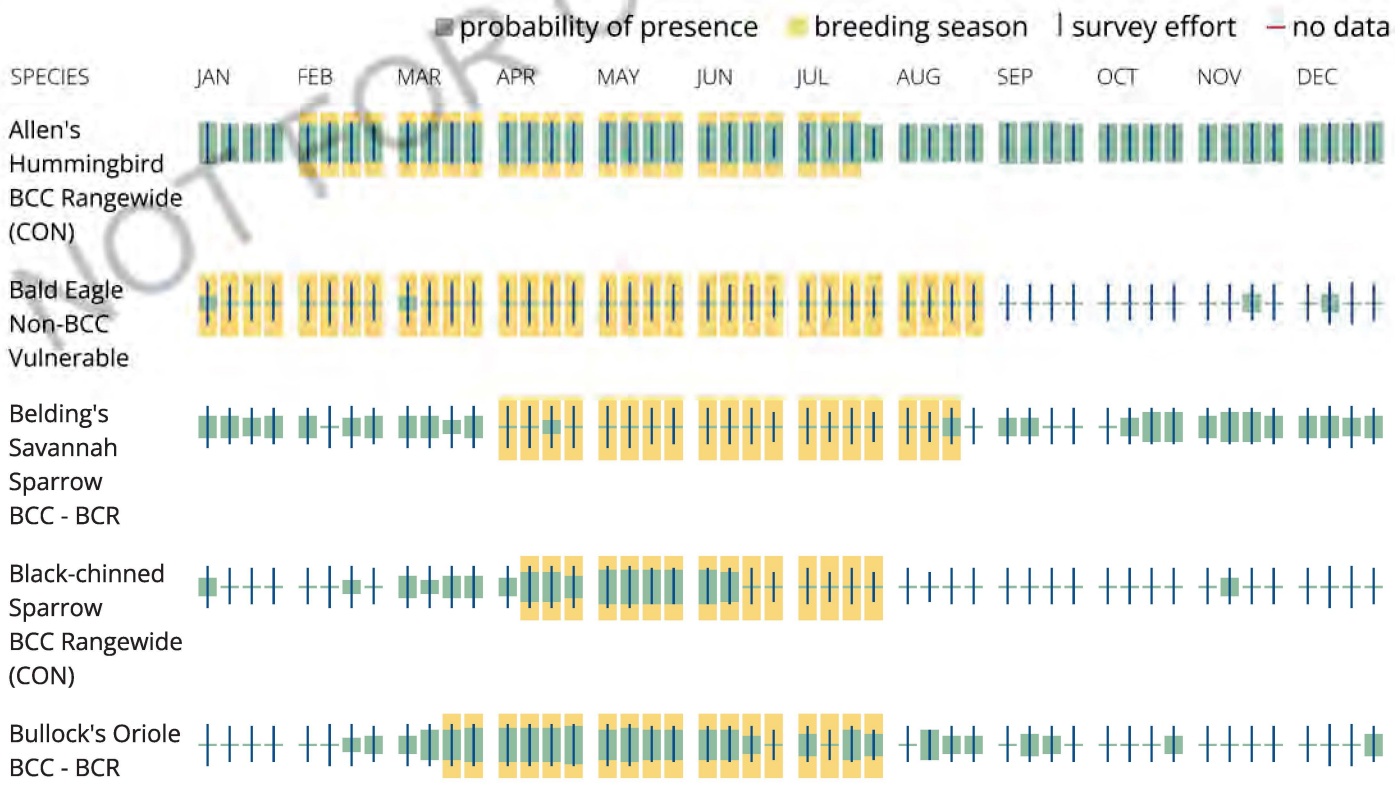
Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

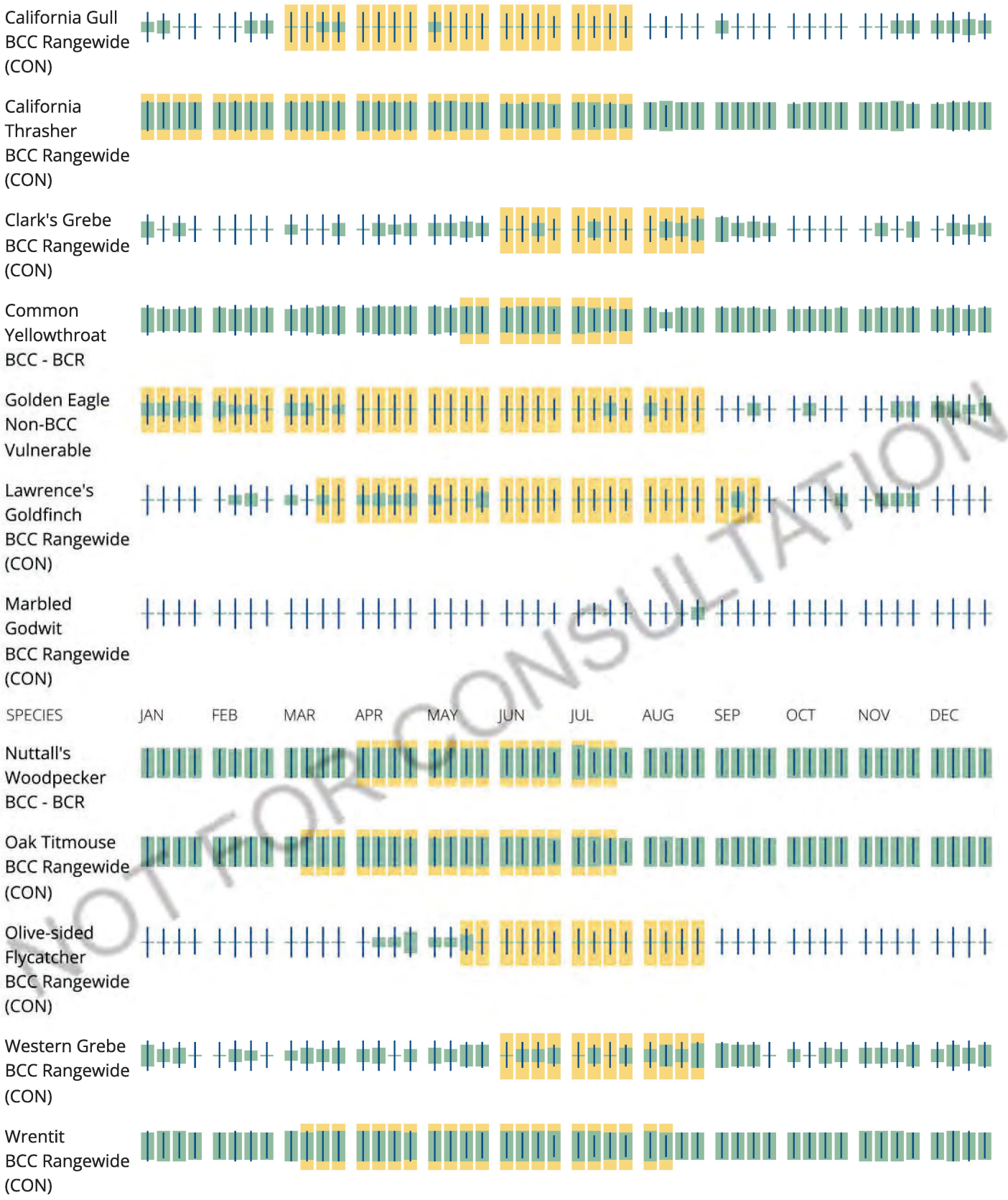
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the

locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and

3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1A

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFOC
- PFOA
- PSSA

RIVERINE

R4SBA

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Attachment F

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