

APPENDIX C

Biological Assessment Report



**Biological Assessment Report
for the
County Line Road Recharge Basin and Turnout Project
City of Calimesa**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report documents the findings of an evaluation of biological resources conducted by BLUE for the proposed water storage/water pipeline re-development project (Project). The proposed project is located in the City of Calimesa (Riverside County, south of County Line Road) on the border of the City of Yucaipa (San Bernardino County; north of County Line Road). The proposed water storage is located on a 6.9-acre parcel located on the west side of 4th Street, north of Buena Vista Court and south of West County Line Road. It is connected to the proposed replacement water lines from the east, along West County Line Road and south on Bryant Street. Overall, the Project includes three general parts:

1. The development of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 411-150-027-3 (a 6.9-acre lot in the west) for a recharge pond constructed to replenish groundwater, including possible improvements to Buena Vista Court (in the southwest corner).
2. The conversion and installation of water pipelines (approximately 6,100 linear feet) in 4th Street, West County Line Road and Bryant Street.
3. The construction of a new San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) turnout that connects to existing nozzle on the East Branch Extension. SBVMWD will obtain an easement to construct on an existing single family residential lot (APN 410-112-015). This turnout will connect to the pipe that South Mesa Water Company is abandoning. This potable pipeline will be converted to a raw water pipeline.
4. The proposed pipeline running below 4th Street will be constructed below (jack/bore) the concrete lined flood control channel it intersects. No impacts to the flood control channel are proposed.

The Project is not located within any Planning Area designated Criteria Areas or Subunits. The project is also outside of mandatory protocol Burrowing Owl Survey area. A burrowing owl assessment was conducted due to the occurrence of potentially appropriate habitat (disturbed area/agriculture). The Project footprint does not fall within any Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) or other Conserved Lands.

The Biological Study Area (BSA) includes the Project proposed ground disturbance footprint, plus a 100-foot buffer. The BSA is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Yucaipa Topographic Map. The Project falls within the San Bernardino Meridian, Section 5, Township 4 South, Range 3 West on the Yucaipa, CA 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (USGS 2020) in the city of Calimesa, at an approximate elevation of 2,450 feet.

The intended use of this document is to disclose and evaluate habitat conditions and determine the potential for occurrence of common and special-status species and their habitats within survey area limits pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Special-status species refers to any species that has been afforded special protection by federal, state, or local resource agencies (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) or resource conservation organizations (e.g., California Native Plant Society [CNPS]). The term "special-status species" excludes those avian species solely identified under Section 10 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) for federal protection and CDFW Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3513. The CDFW code and MBTA species (protected by Section 10 measures per federal requirements) are afforded avoidance and minimization.

2.0 METHODS

Prior to beginning the field survey, a literature review was completed to determine locations and types of biological resources having the potential to exist within the region (USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper and File data [USFWS], California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants [CNPS]). The MSHCP Transportation and Land Management Agency Geographic Information Services Database and Western Riverside County RCA website and GIS data bank was also reviewed (County of Riverside, 2023).

In addition to utilizing on-line databases and mapping tools, the Yucaipa topographic map was reviewed to determine the locations of any potential special aquatic resource areas (e.g., wetlands or other Waters of the United States or Waters of the State) under regulatory jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFW, and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and Riparian/Riverine habitats prior to beginning field surveys of the BSA.

Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) on-line Web Soil Survey tool (NRCS 2015) was reviewed to determine the types and percent cover of soils within the BSA.

Lands within the BSA that were potentially suspected of being potential special aquatic resource and Riparian/Riverine habitats were then assessed by visual observation during the field survey. Potential special aquatic resource areas and riparian/riverine habitats were further evaluated by determining the presence of definable channels and/or hydrophytic vegetation, riparian habitat, and hydrologic regime.

Michael Jefferson, senior BLUE biologist, then conducted a pedestrian-based biological survey to observe, document, and evaluate plant and wildlife resources and determine the potential for occurrence of special-status plant and wildlife species. Approximately 100-foot-wide meandering transects were utilized to provide visual coverage of the BSA.

Vegetation community type descriptions were based on observed dominant vegetation composition and derived from the criteria and definitions of vegetation classification systems (Holland, 1986; Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995; Sawyer et al., 2009). Plants were identified in the field to the lowest taxonomic level sufficient to determine positive identity and status. Plants of uncertain identity were subsequently identified using taxonomic keys, and scientific and common species names were recorded according to Baldwin (2012).

The presence of a wildlife species was based on direct observation or wildlife sign (e.g., tracks, burrows, nests, scat, or vocalization). Field data compiled for wildlife species included scientific name, common name, and evidence of sign when no direct observations were made. Wildlife of uncertain distinctiveness was documented and subsequently identified from field guides and related literature (Burt and Grossenheider, 1980; Halfpenny, 2000; Sibley, 2000; Elbroch, 2003; and Stebbins, 2003).

Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment

A burrowing owl habitat assessment was conducted onsite following the burrowing owl survey instructions outlined in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation State of California Natural Resources Agency (Department of Fish and Game; 2012). While potentially appropriate habitat for burrowing owl (agricultural fields)

occurs within the BSA, a review of CNDDDB indicates that no burrowing owl are recorded onsite or within 2 miles of the project footprint, and none in the Yucaipa USGS quad. Burrowing owls use a variety of natural and modified habitats for nesting and foraging that is typically characterized by low growing vegetation. Burrowing owl habitat includes, but is not limited to, native and non-native grassland, interstitial grassland within shrub lands, shrub lands with low density shrub cover, golf-courses, drainage ditches, earthen berms, unpaved airfields, pastureland, dairies, fallow fields, and agricultural use areas.

Burrowing owls typically use burrows made by fossorial (adapted for burrowing or digging) mammals, such as ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) or badgers (*Taxidea taxus*). They also often utilize manmade structures, such as earthen berms; cement culverts; cement, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles; or openings beneath cement or asphalt pavement. Burrowing owls are often found within, under, or in close proximity to man-made structures.

As required by the assessment process, the property and a 500-foot-deep buffer (where appropriate) was walked/surveyed to identify the presence of burrowing owl habitat and/or burrowing owls surrounding the Project and in the BSA.

In addition, the BSA was also assessed for its potential to support special-status species, based on habitat suitability comparisons with reported occupied habitats.

The following definitions were used to determine the need for subsequent surveys and to assess project-related effects to special-status species:

- Absent (A): No habitat occurs within the survey area and no further surveys are necessary
- Habitat Present (HP): Habitat is present within the survey area
- Present (P): The species was observed within the survey area during the survey
- Critical Habitat (CH): The survey area is located within designated critical habitat

3.0 RESULTS

BLUE biologist Mike Jefferson conducted the surveys for the Project on April 6, 2023, beginning at 9:30 am and ending at 11:30 am. A follow up survey was conducted for the Buena Vista Court road extension area on July 28, 2024, between 10:30-11:15. Weather conditions during the April/July survey included mostly clear skies/clear skies, with temperatures ranging from 66°-69° / 83°-85° Fahrenheit, and winds from 1 to 3 miles per hour.

3.1 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES/LAND COVER TYPES

A total of two (2) vegetation community/land cover types were observed onsite, Developed and Disturbed vegetation (Table 1; Figures 3a and 3b). No native plant species were located within the survey area.

Table 1: On-Site/Linear Component Vegetation

Community Type	Total (approx.)
Disturbed (lot)	6.9 acres
Developed (in roadway; linear pipe replacement)	6,100 feet

Communities/Land Cover Types Observed Onsite

3.1.1 Disturbed (orchard/ruderal/maintained)

The disturbed areas are typically located adjacent to urbanization and contain a mix of unmaintained bare dirt and primarily weedy species, including non-native forbs, annuals, and grasses, usually found pioneering on recently disturbed soils. Maintained undeveloped areas supporting native vegetation/habitat are considered disturbed habitat – ornamental vegetation.

Onsite, the Disturbed habitat is comprised of the maintained, disked and irrigated agricultural area. Within this partially dirt lot, the following non-native weedy species were dominant: prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*), common sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), mustard ssp., hottentot-fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), castor-bean (*Ricinus communis*), red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), short-beak filaree (*Erodium brachycarpum*) and white-stem filaree (*Erodium moschatum*).

These maintained urban lands do not support natural, native vegetation or provide essential habitat connectivity and therefore have a significantly reduced biological value.

3.1.2 Developed

Developed lands onsite include the paved roadways where the replacement pipe is located (4th Street, West County Line Road and Bryant Street), street/access improvements to Buena Vista Court (southwest corner) and the existing single-family residence and parking area located at 906 Bryant Street (eastern connection point). Within the BSA, developed area consists of the surrounding streets and the existing single-family residence. No native or sensitive vegetation is present within this land cover type.

3.2 PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES

Plant and wildlife species observed within the survey area were typical of developed and disturbed habitats. All plant and wildlife species observed within the survey area are listed in the respective report sections.

3.2.1 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

Eleven special-status plant species have been reported to occur within the Yucaipa quadrangle (Figure 1) (CDFW, CNPS, County of Riverside). Three species are designated with federal and/or state listing status: San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*), thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), and spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*). Due to the developed and disturbed/maintained quality of vegetation onsite, all eleven special-status plant species were determined to have an “Absent” potential for occurrence within the survey area and no further survey is necessary to determine presence or absence of those species.

3.2.2 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE

Fifteen special-status wildlife species (including eight USFWS designated species) have been reported to occur within the Yucaipa quadrangle (CDFW, County of Riverside). Due to the developed and disturbed/maintained quality of vegetation onsite and within the BSA, all fifteen special-status wildlife species were determined to have an “Absent” potential for occurrence within the survey area and no further survey is necessary to determine presence or absence of these species.

Eight special-status wildlife species under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction with the potential to occur are listed in the IPaC resource list (USFWS, 2023; attached). None were observed onsite and all habitat assessments are negative for the potential to occur.

Species Name	Status	Habitat	Critical Habitat Overlap (onsite)	Onsite Status
San Bernardino Merriam's Kangaroo Rat	Endangered	Alluvial fan sage scrub and coastal sage scrub in San Bernardino County	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Coastal California Gnatcatcher	Threatened	Coastal sage scrub	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Least Bell's Vireo	Endangered	Mesquite scrub within arroyos, palm groves, and hedgerows bordering agricultural	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.

		and residential areas		
Species Name	Status	Habitat	Critical Habitat Overlap (onsite)	Onsite potential
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Endangered	Dense riparian habitats (cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation)	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Mountain Yellow-legged Frog	Endangered	Mid- to high-elevation aquatic habitat	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Santa Ana Sucker	Threatened	Shallow portions of rivers and streams	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Monarch Butterfly	Candidate	Milkweed and flowering plants	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.
Slender-horned Spineflower	Endangered	Isolated patches of large floodplain habitats categorized as alluvial scrub	No	Absent. No appropriate habitat onsite. No potential to occur.

Due to the disturbed and low quality of vegetation onsite, all special-status species were determined to have an “Absent” potential for occurrence within the survey area and no further survey is necessary to determine presence or absence of these species.

3.2.3 WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (MSHCP)

The Project is located within the Western Riverside County MSHCP area. The Project is not located in any MSHCP designated Criteria Cells or Cell Groups (County of Riverside, 2023). The Project is not subject to Cell Criteria compliance under the MSHCP. The Project does not include any MSHCP Conserved Lands. Public and private development projects that are carried out are permitted under the MSHCP subject to compliance with MSHCP policies that apply outside Criteria Areas. In addition, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency is not a permittee nor a Participating Special Entity (PSE) to the MSHCP.

The Project does not occur within any Amphibian, Mammalian, or Special Linkage Areas, as identified by MSHCP Section 6.3.2.

Additional Surveys Needs and Procedures

A burrowing owl assessment was completed over the entire Project footprint and buffer area (see all Figures). No

quality habitat, burrowing owls, or owl sign, were located during the assessment. No potentially appropriate burrows were observed onsite and within the BSA.

A habitat assessment for nine potential Criteria Area Species was completed and due to a lack of appropriate habitat and lack of observations, there is no potential for occurrence. Species include: Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*), little mouestail (*Myosurus minimus* var. *apus*), mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*), Parish's brittlescale (*Atriplex parishii*), round-leaved filaree (*Erodium macrophyllum*), San Jacinto Valley crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *notatior*), smooth tarplant (*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*), and thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*).

A habitat assessment for five Narrow Endemic Plant Species was completed and due to a lack of appropriate habitat and lack of observations, there is no potential for occurrence. Species include: San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), and Wrights trichocoronis (*Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*).

3.2.4 RIPARIAN/RIVERINE

Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP defines Riparian/Riverine areas are defined as "lands which contain Habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year."

Riparian/Riverine are not present within the survey area and will not be impacted by the Project.

3.2.5 VERNAL POOL AND FAIRY SHRIMP

Vernal pools, vernal swales, alkali scalds or flats, or other seasonal wet habitats were not identified within the BSA during field surveys conducted by a qualified biologist.

The BSA lacks suitable habitat for fairy shrimp species or other vernal pool species, including plants.

3.3 AQUATIC RESOURCES

The BSA does not contain any special aquatic resource area such as wetlands or other Waters of the United States or Waters of the State under regulatory jurisdiction of the USACE, CDFW, or RWQCB.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The literature review and field assessment data confirm that no special-status species currently utilize the BSA. The BSA does not support sensitive native habitat and/or riparian, riverine and/or vernal pool habitat.

As a result, the BSA lacks suitable habitat that would typically support special-status species or receive California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. No special status species were observed and none are expected to occur. Consequently, there is no reasonable presumption of adverse impact to any special status species or their habitats as a result of Project implementation.

Suitable burrowing owl habitat is present on the basin site and dirt roadway shoulders. No direct observations or burrowing owl sign (feathers, pellets, fecal material, prey remains, etc.) were made during the site assessment. No potentially suitable burrows were present on site. No ground squirrels (an important indicator species) were observed on site.

No Narrow Endemic Plant Species/Criteria Area plant species were observed on site during the habitat assessment. Given the Project footprints' exposure to recurring surface disturbances associated with vegetation management, these species are not expected to occur on site. The BSA supports no riparian/riverine/vernal pool habitats or species associated with these habitat types, and none were observed on site.

No special aquatic resource areas were discovered within the BSA and none are expected to be impacted by the Project.

To comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and relevant sections of California Fish and Game Code (e.g., Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, et seq.), vegetation clearing should take place outside of the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1st to August 31st), to the maximum extent practical. If vegetation removal occurs during the nesting bird season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within 72 hours of the scheduled activity.

The services performed by BLUE and documented in this report have been conducted in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other professional consultants under similar circumstances. No other representations are either express or implied, and no warranty or guarantee is included in this report. Opinions relating to presence, absence, or potential for occurrence of biological resources are based on limited data and actual conditions may vary from those encountered at the times and locations where the data were obtained despite due professional care. The services provided have been performed in accordance with the negotiated scope of work. Any reliance on this report by any other party shall be at such party's sole risk unless that party has written authorization from BLUE to use this work product.

5.0 PREPARER

The following Qualified Senior Biologist completed the stated field survey(s) and preparation of this report:
Michael Jefferson

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

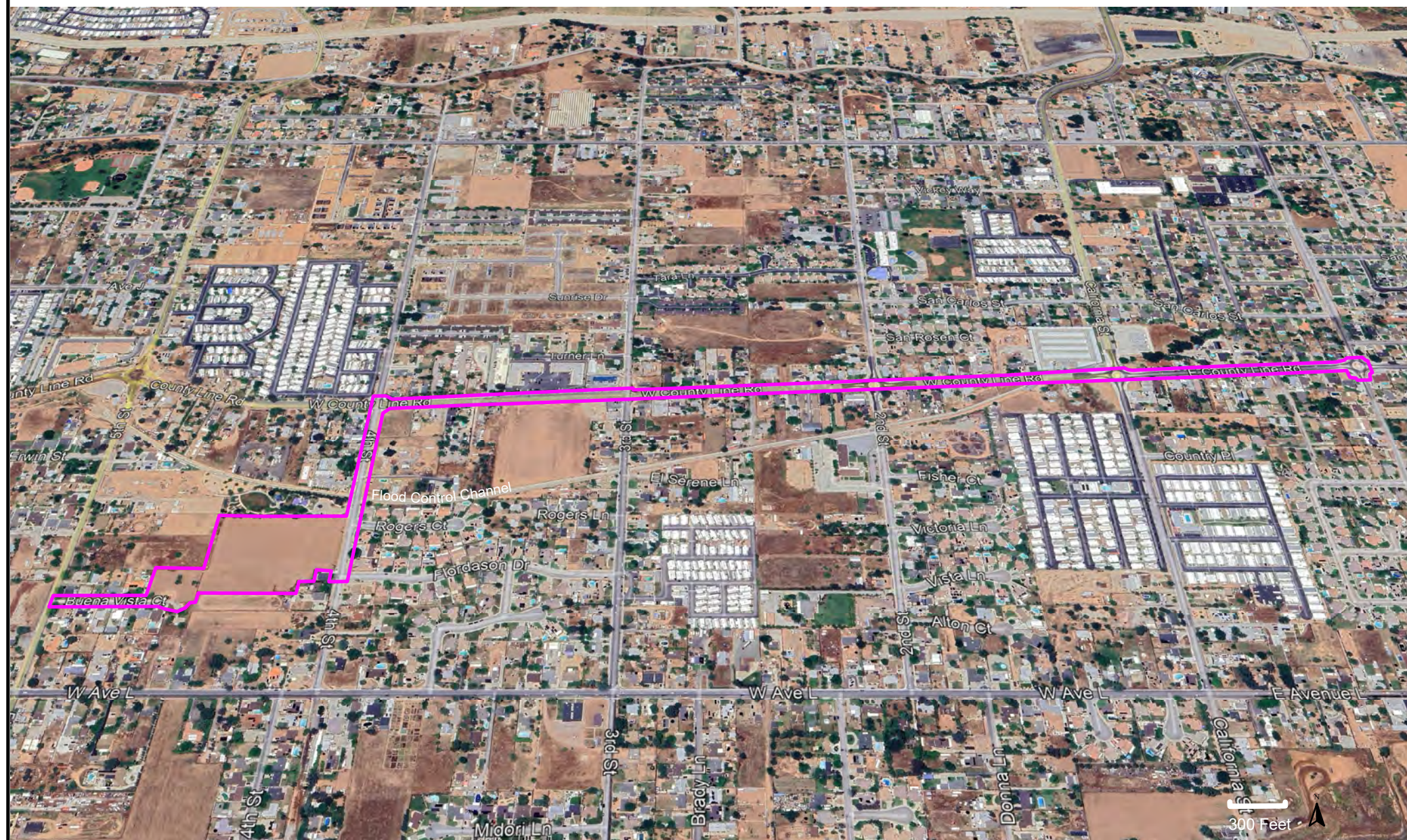
Signed:

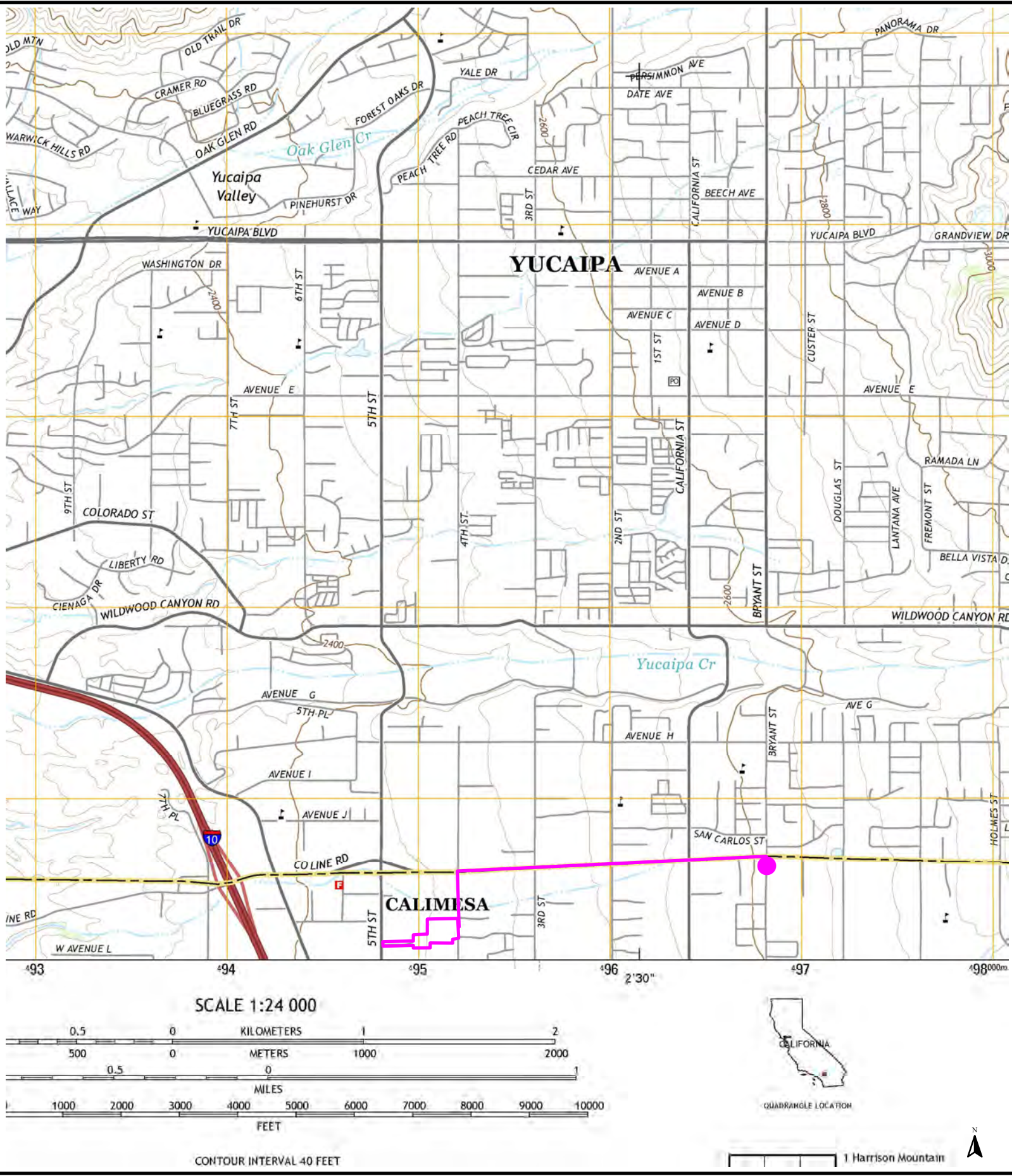


Michael K. Jefferson
BLUE Consulting Group
Senior Biologist

6.0 REFERENCES

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), 2023. RareFind California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Yucaipa USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangles. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Fish and Game, Biogeographic Data Branch.
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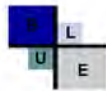
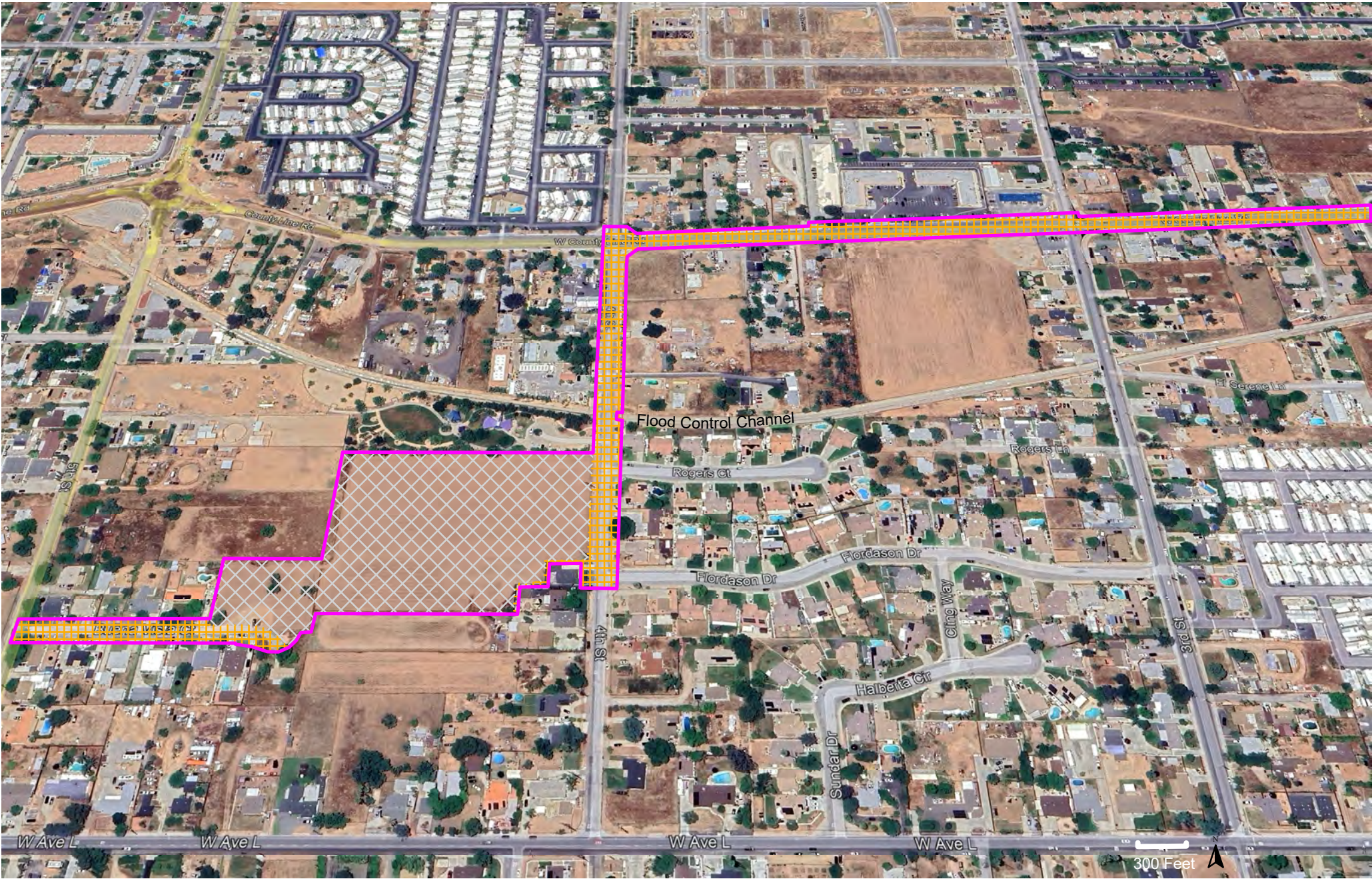






Proposed Project Location (Lot and Linear)

FIGURE 2
USGS Topo Map

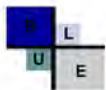


Project Footprint

Developed Area

Disturbed Habitat

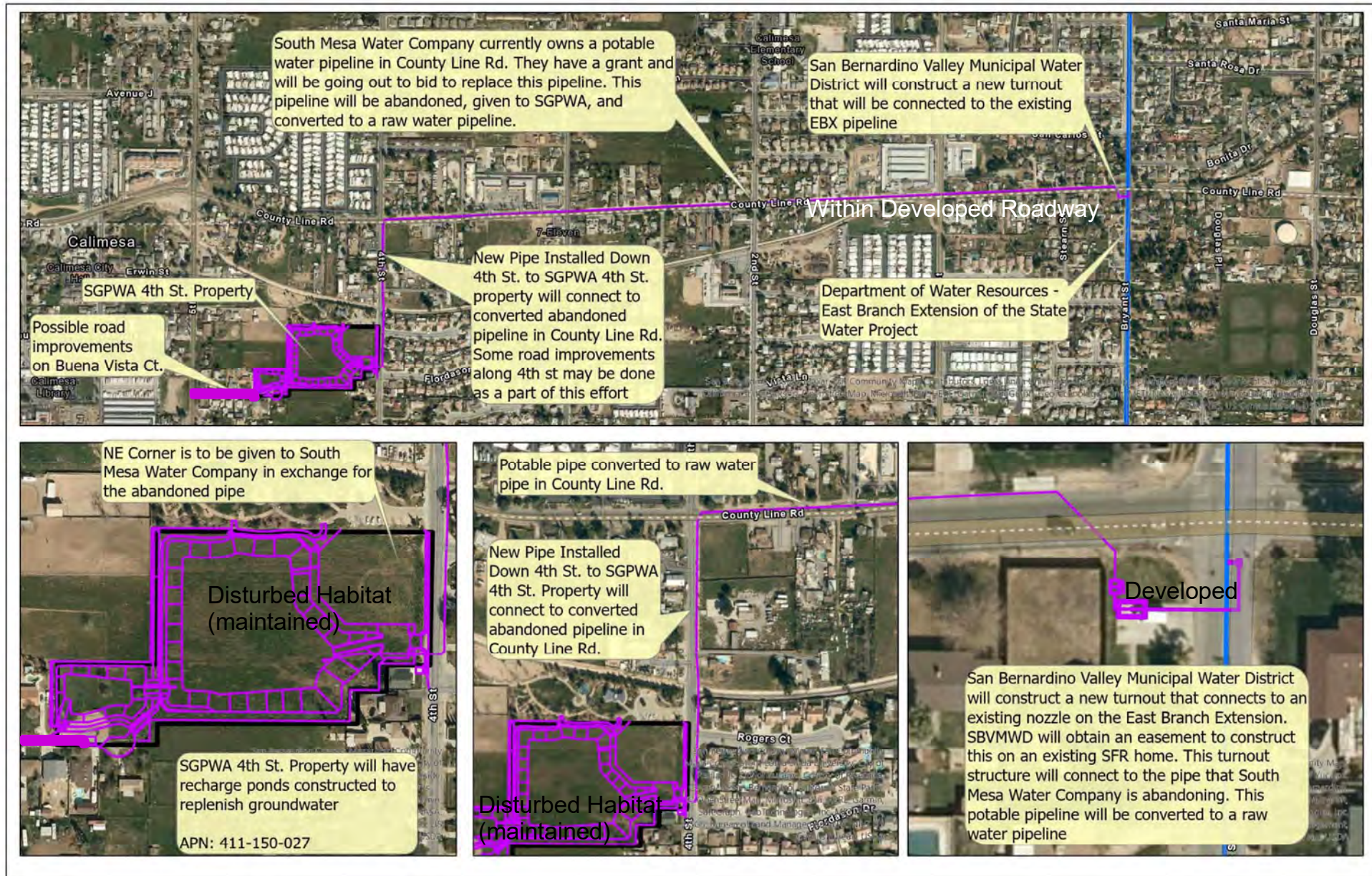
FIGURE 3a
Project Vegetation
Map (west)



Project Footprint

Developed Area

FIGURE 3b
Project Vegetation
Map (east)



Project Footprint
(all within disturbed/developed area)

FIGURE 4
Project Impact Map



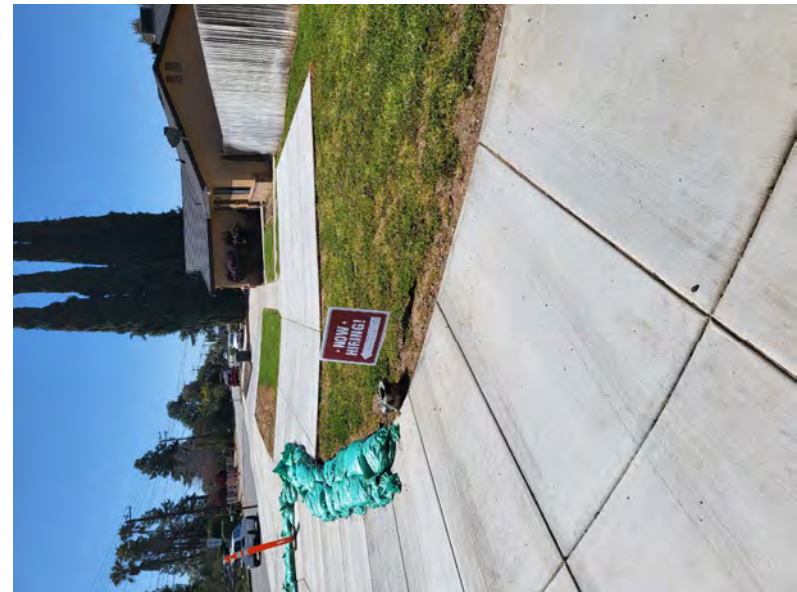
Photograph 1 - SW corner looking N over disturbed lots



Photograph 2 - Close-up of Maintained Disturbed Habitat



Photograph 3 - Looking W. down County Line Road (pipe installation)



Photograph 4 - Looking S at connection point at intersection of Bryant and W. County Line Road

Photographs 1-4

Photographs of the Project Footprint (maintained lot and developed linear roadway)



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

Riverside and San Bernardino counties, California



Local office

Carlsbad Fish And Wildlife Office

☎ (760) 431-9440

📄 (760) 431-5901

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

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

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 species¹ 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 Fisheries²).

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](#).

-
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:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
San Bernardino Merriam's Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2060	Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Coastal California Gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8178	Threatened
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> 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 <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> 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

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
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Mountain Yellow-legged Frog *Rana muscosa* Endangered
There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8037>

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Santa Ana Sucker <i>Catostomus santaanae</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3785	Threatened

Insects

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

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Slender-horned Spineflower <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4007	Endangered

Critical habitats

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

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) and the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#).

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

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>

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, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> 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.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> 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

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 and understand the FAQ "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.

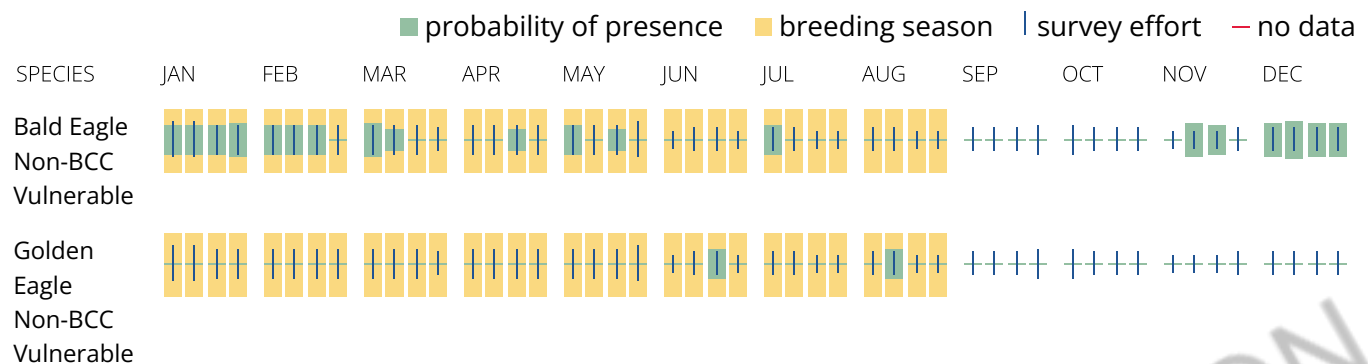
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

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 Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

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:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species>
- 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>

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, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Allen's Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus sasin</i> 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* 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.

Belding's Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi* Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 15
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>

Black Swift *Cypseloides niger* Breeds Jun 15 to Sep 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8878>

Black-chinned Sparrow *Spizella atrogularis* Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9447>

Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

California Gull *Larus californicus* Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum* Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462>

Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*

Breeds May 20 to Jul 31

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>

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>

Lawrence's Goldfinch *Carduelis lawrencei*

Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464>

Nuttall's Woodpecker *Picoides nuttallii*

Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20

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>

Oak Titmouse *Baeolophus inornatus*

Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656>

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>

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 and understand the FAQ "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 (I)

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.

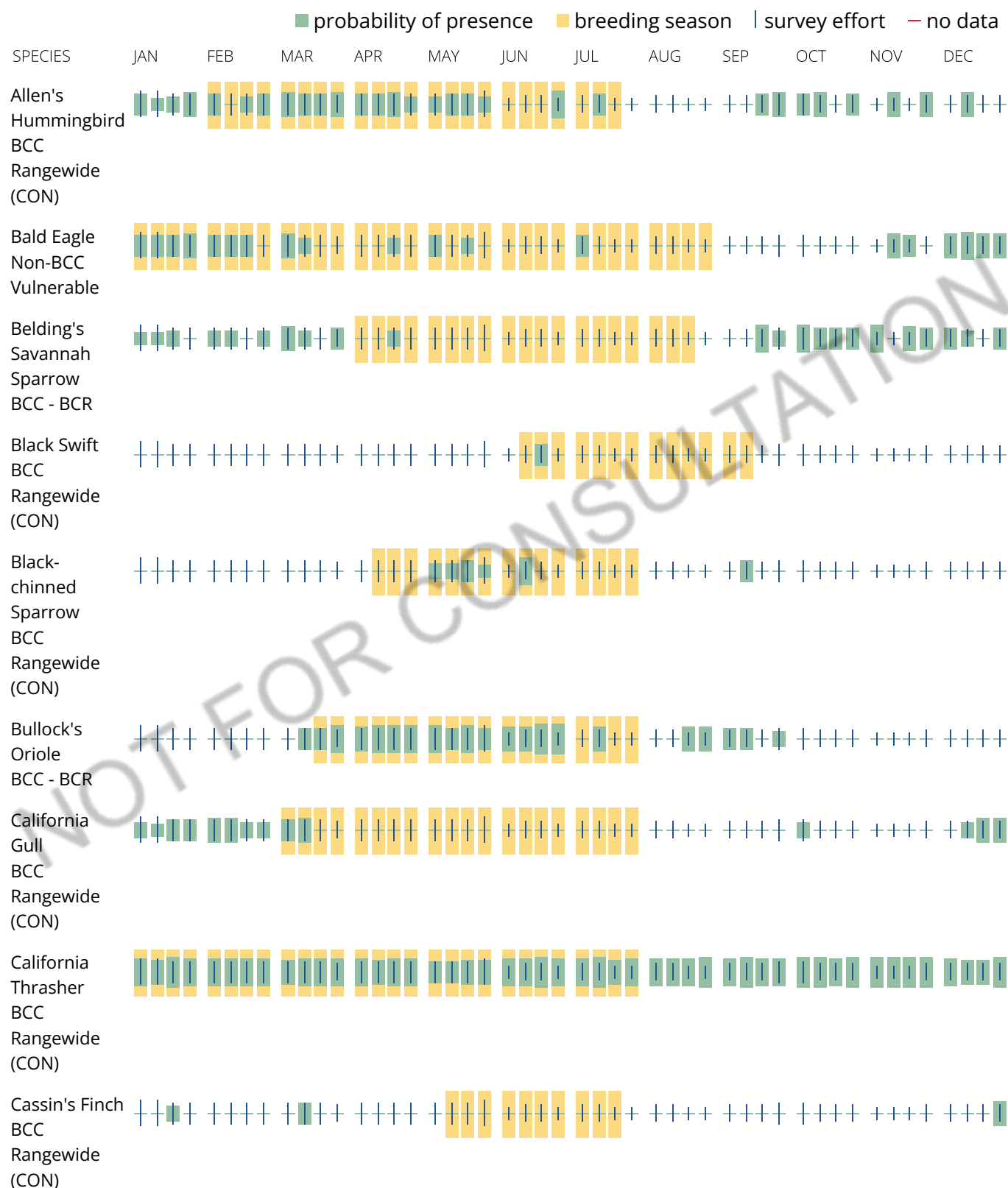
No Data (—)

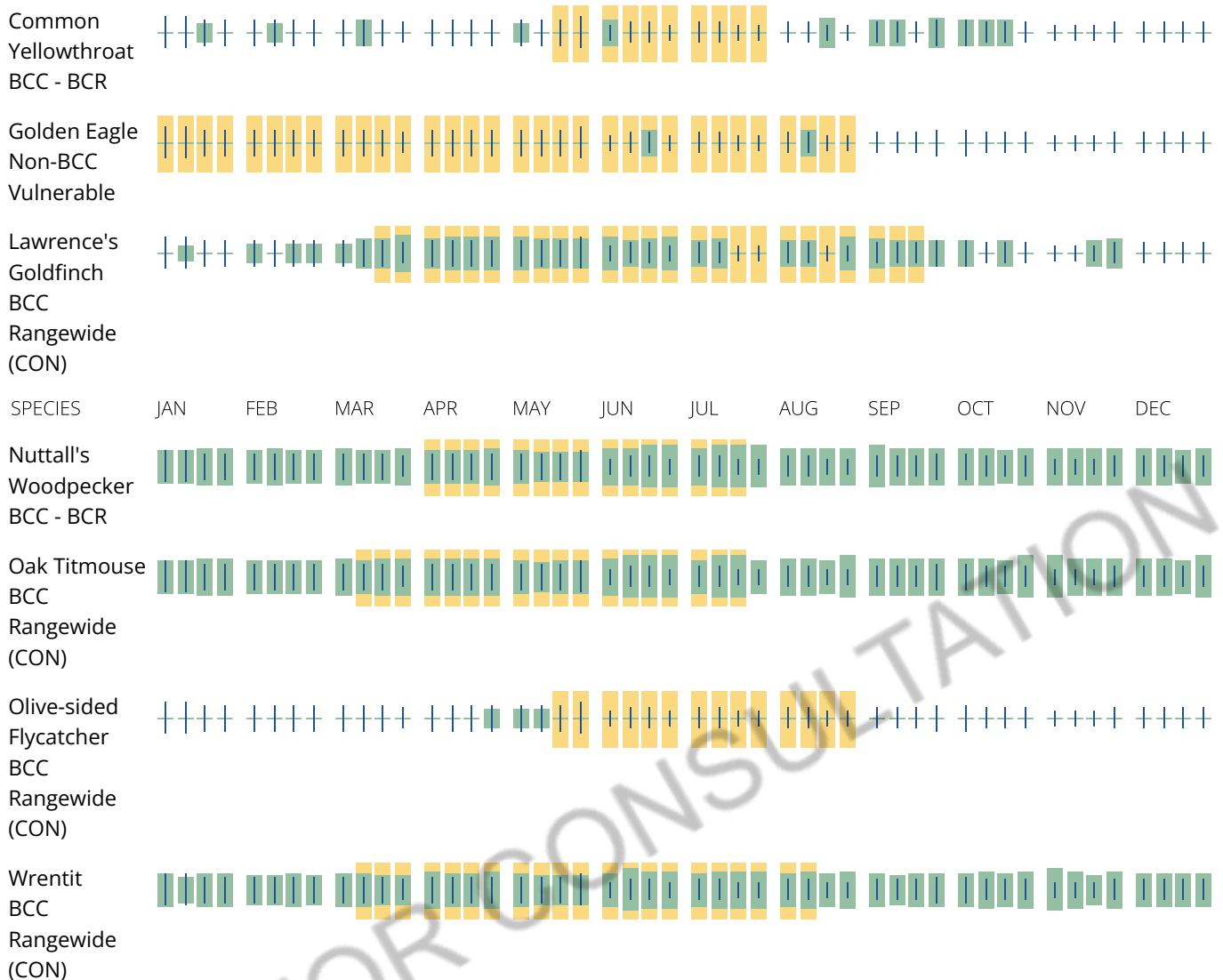
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

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](#).

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the [NWI map](#) to view wetlands at this location.

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 tubercid 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.