

Biological Resources Evaluation

For The Proposed

Riverdale High School Facility Improvements Project

Riverdale, CA

Prepared for:

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

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Executive Summary

This Biological Resources Evaluation (BRE) report provides the result of a biological survey conducted by Blair, Church & Flynn Consulting Engineers for the Riverdale High School Facilities Improvements project. To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a biological resource evaluation was conducted to identify the potential presence of biological resources at and near the Project site.

The Project site consists of 21.5 acres of an existing high school campus (mainly athletic facilities), active cropland (wheat), a stormwater basin, an educational ag barn, and associated paved or dirt roads. The Project site is in the community of Riverdale in Fresno County, California. Nearby waterways include irrigation canals and Murphy Slough.

The Riverdale Joint Unified School District (District) proposes renovating the football/soccer and track stadium, reconstructing a parking lot, constructing new community multi-use athletic fields (aka “community fields”), reconstructing the Agriculture Barn Education Facility (Ag Barn), improving a section of S. Hazel Avenue, and expanding an existing campus stormwater basin. Work would be completed in three phases. The exact division of work to be completed in each phase is unknown and would depend on available funding and construction costs.

A literature review was conducted to determine if there were occurrences of any rare or special status species at the project site. Additionally, a biological survey was conducted on February 26, 2025 to observe actual conditions at the site and to determine if there is potential habitat for, or occurrences of, any species identified in the literature review. Potential habitat for special status species were not present at the Project site, nor were any observations made of special status species. However, a pair of common ravens (*Corvus corax*) was observed nesting on a stadium light pole. Mitigation measures were recommended to reduce the impact to these specific nesting birds, nesting birds in general, and any species that may travel through the site during active construction.

1.0 Introduction

The Riverdale Joint Unified School District (District) proposes renovating the football/soccer and track stadium, reconstructing a parking lot, constructing new community multi-use athletic fields (aka “community fields”), reconstructing the Agriculture Barn Education Facility (Ag Barn), improving a section of S. Hazel Avenue, and expanding an existing campus stormwater basin. Work would be completed in three phases. To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Biological Resources Evaluation was performed to evaluate the Project site for potential habitat for, or occurrences of any, special status species.

1.1 Project Location

The project site, Riverdale High School, is located at 3086 West Mt. Whitney Avenue, Riverdale, California, on 25.54 acres northeast of the intersection of W. Mt Whitney Avenue and S. Hazel California (APN:053-130-12T and 053-130-82T). Riverdale is a census-designated community in Fresno County.

1.2 Project Description

The project site is located on 21.5 acres northeast of the intersection of W. Mount Whitney Avenue and S. Hazel Avenue in the Census-designated community of Riverdale (Riverdale), CA, in Fresno County (County), California (APN: 053-130-12T, and 053-130-82T). The Riverdale Joint Unified School District (District) proposes renovating the football/soccer and track stadium, reconstructing a parking lot, constructing new community multi-use athletic fields, reconstructing the Agriculture Barn Education Facility (Ag Barn), and improving a section of S. Hazel Avenue. Work would be completed in three phases. Phase 1 would renovate the existing high school football/soccer and track stadium (7.34 acres), reconstruct a parking lot (1.56 acres), and use a staging/soil fill area (2.08 acres). Phase 2 would construct three new multi-use athletic fields (5.87 acres), improvements to Hazel Ave. (1.08 acres), undergrounding of existing electrical utilities (0.38 acres), demolish the existing Ag Barn building and surrounding campus farm, and expand the campus stormwater basin (1.42 acres). Phase 3 would construct a new Agriculture Education Barn facility (3.34 acres), a small bathroom building, reconstruct S. Hazel Avenue and add a sidewalk and parking on the east side of Hazel Avenue (0.52 acres). Maps identifying the project location and project site are presented in Figures 1 and 2.

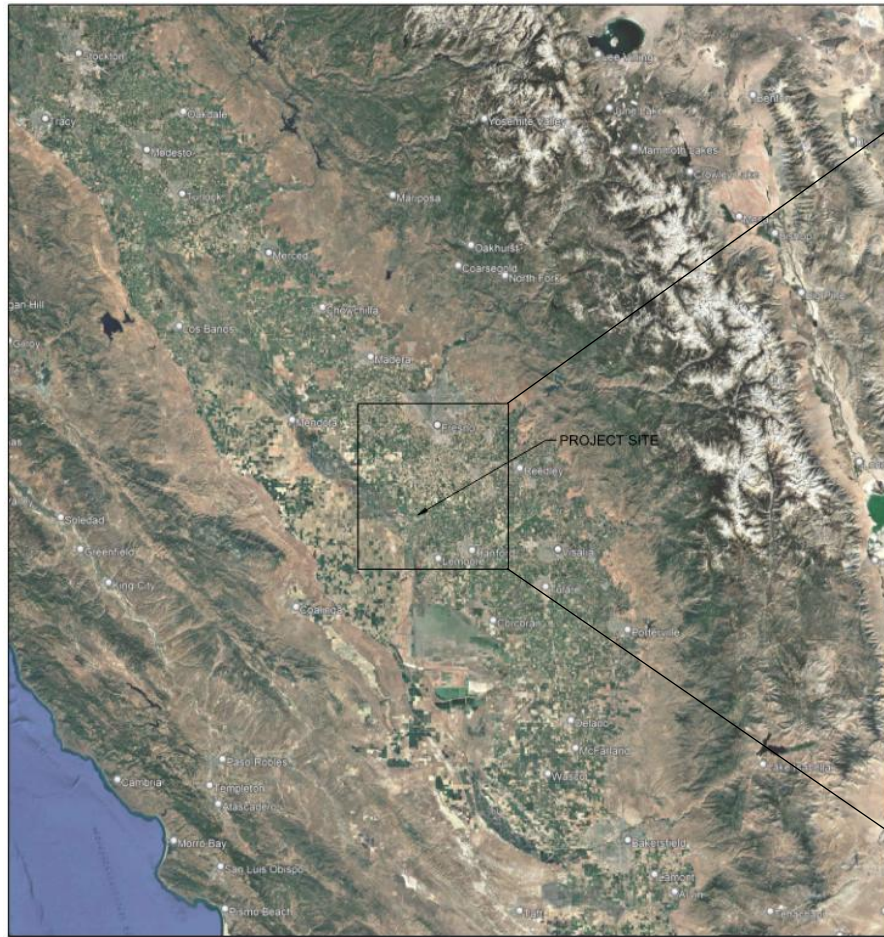
1.3 Purpose, Goals, and Objectives for this Report

This Biological Resource Evaluation provides information about potential sensitive biological resources including sensitive natural communities, special-status plant and wildlife species, wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites, and wetlands and waters. Information on these topics was obtained by conducting a desktop review of existing databases and literature and then verifying and augmenting those findings by conducting an on-site biological survey.

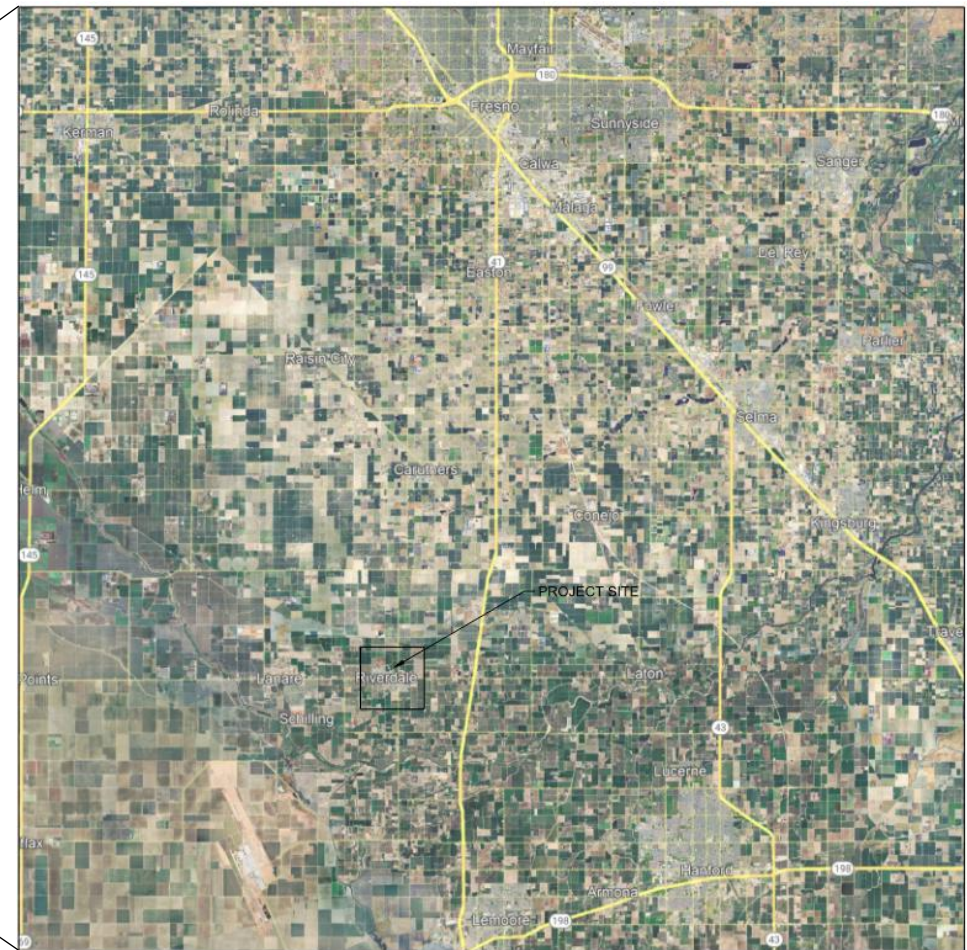
2.0 Methods

2.1 Definition of Biological Study Area

The Biological Study Area (BSA) is the proposed project location, including potential locations for a proposed stormwater basin expansion. Overall, the BSA is approximately 25.54 acres and is located northeast of the intersection of W. Mt. Whitney Ave. and S. Hazel Ave., in the community of Riverdale, Fresno County, California. Please refer to Figures 1 and 2 showing the BSA's location.



LOCATION MAP
NOT TO SCALE



PROJECT SITE
NOT TO SCALE



FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAPS

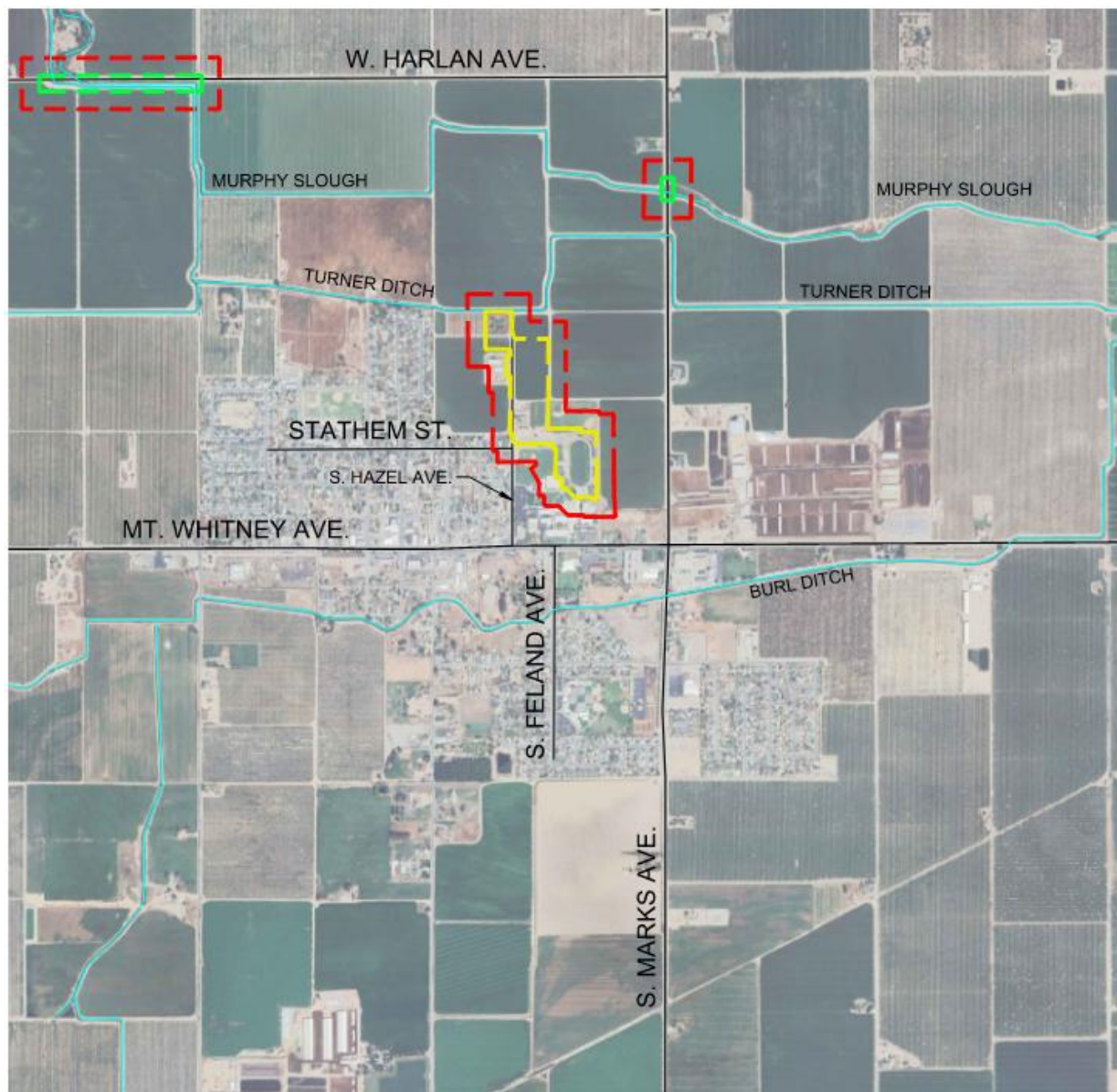


FIGURE 2: VICINITY MAP

VICINITY MAP LEGEND:

- PROJECT SITE BOUNDARY
- OFF-SITE STUDY AREA
- 200' BUFFER



VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE

2.2 Literature Review and Database Analysis

The following sources were reviewed to obtain information on sensitive biological resources occurring in the Project vicinity:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB),
- CDFW's Biogeographic Information and Observation System,
- CDFW's Special Animals List,
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California,
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation System,
- USFWS Critical Habitat Mapper,
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Zone Maps, and
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey,

For each of these data sources, the search was focused on the Riverdale USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle in which the Project is located, plus the surrounding eight quadrangles, including Raisin, Caruthers, Conejo, Burrel, Laton, Vanguard, Lemoore, and Hanford. For the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) query, a 5-mile search radius was also used to identify natural communities and special-status species records nearest to the Project.

The CNDDDB provides element-specific spatial information on documented occurrences of special-status species and sensitive natural communities. The CNDDDB represents data collected during comprehensive surveys for special status resources in the region. As such, the absence of recorded occurrences in these databases at any specific location does not preclude the possibility that a special-status species could be present.

The CDFW Special Animals List and USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation system (IPac) provide no spatial data on wildlife occurrences and provide only lists of species that might potentially be present. Wildlife species designated as "Fully Protected" by California Fish and Game Code Sections 5050 (Fully Protected reptiles and amphibians), 3511 (Fully Protected birds), and 4700 (Fully Protected mammals) are also included on the final list of species that were evaluated.

A review of the National Wetlands Inventory was completed to identify whether wetlands had previously been documented on or adjacent to the project site. Soil data was obtained from the Natural Resource Conservation District, United States Department of Agriculture, climate information was obtained from Weather Underground, and land use information was obtained from available aerial imagery. Information about flood zones was obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, flood zone maps.

The results of the database inquiries were subsequently reviewed to extract pertinent information on site conditions and evaluate the potential for sensitive biological resources to occur within or near the

project site. Only those resources with the potential to be present and affected by the project were included and considered in this document. The potential presence of natural communities and special-status species was based on distributional ranges that overlap with the project site.

2.3 Reconnaissance Level Field Survey

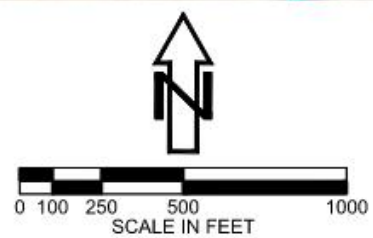
A biological resources reconnaissance survey was performed on February 26, 2025, by Blair, Church & Flynn Environmental Specialist Gabriel Ledesma, and Assistant Environmental Specialist Michelle Reynaud. The survey took place at the Project Site, along the agricultural roads adjacent to the project parcels (to avoid damaging crops), walking through the existing on-site stormwater basin, and walking around the existing parking lot and stadium. Additionally, time was taken to make observations at off-site study areas along Murphy Slough at the S. Marks Ave. crossing and the W. Harlan Ave. crossings. Tasks completed included documenting plant and animal species observed, the state of on-site hydrological features, existing land use, and characterizing habitat conditions. A buffer of approximately 200' was included in the survey area by using binoculars to observe potential nesting habitat outside the BSA (see Figures 2, 3, and 4 for locations of study areas and buffers). Photographs were taken during the survey and are presented within the Biological Resources Report. The off-site study areas were included because Murphy Slough, a nearby waterway, may provide habitat for migratory birds that visit the Project Site.



FIGURE 3: STUDY AREA - SCHOOL SITE

MAP LEGEND:

- PROJECT SITE BOUNDARY
- 200' BUFFER



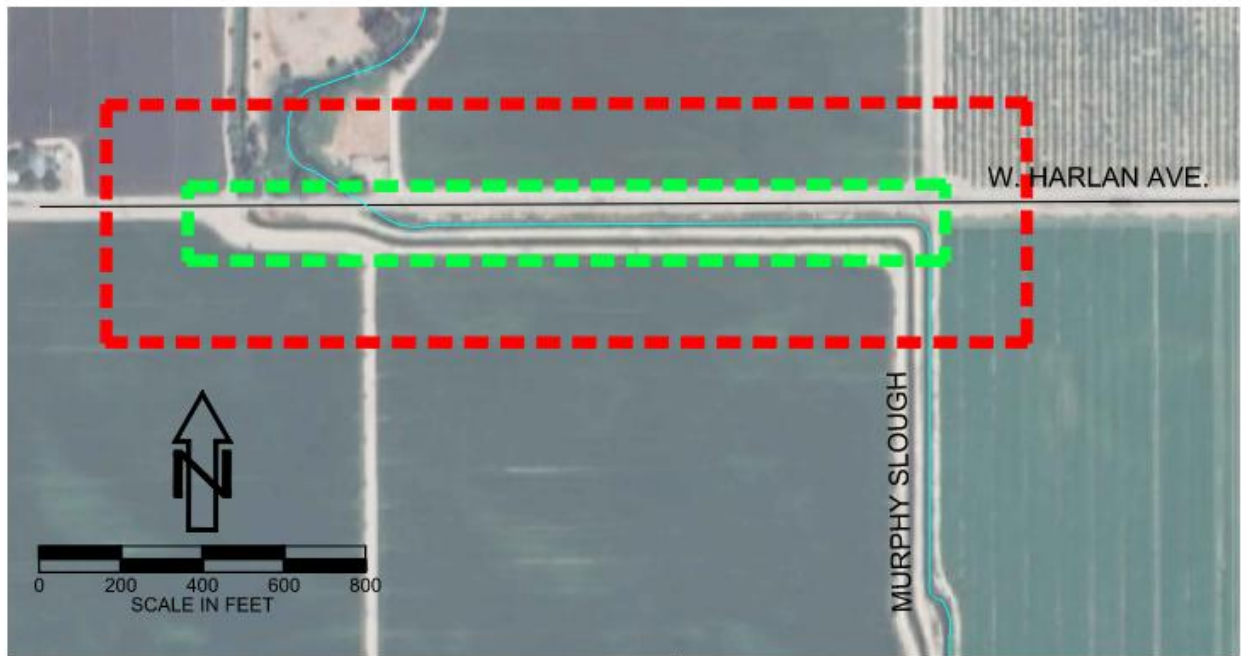


FIGURE 4: STUDY AREA - OFF-SITE AREAS

MAP LEGEND:

- OFF-SITE STUDY AREA
- 200' BUFFER

3.0 Environmental Setting

This section describes the existing environmental setting of the proposed project. As stated in Section 1.1 Project Location, the proposed project site is located within the interior of the existing Riverdale High School campus in an area currently occupied by athletic facilities (a football field and running track) and other school facilities. The area surrounding the project site consists of single-family residential and commercial development, a church, and agricultural fields.

3.1 Topography

The project site occurs on flat terrain at an approximate elevation of 220 feet above mean sea level.

3.2 Climate

The climatic conditions of the project are typical of the central San Joaquin Valley, consisting of hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, characteristic of a Mediterranean climate. The local meteorology of the area is represented by measurements recorded by the National Weather Service. The monthly average temperatures recorded between 1991 and 2020 range from 54°F (Fahrenheit) in January to 83°F in August. The annual average temperature is 65°F. December, January, and February typically are the coldest months in this area. Annual rainfall in the project area occurs mostly between December and March, with an average of approximately 10.9 inches per year (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2025).

3.3 Land Use

Riverdale High School, the proposed project site, is within the unincorporated community of Riverdale, California. The land use within the BSA consists of an existing high school and athletic fields, a stormwater retention basin, and agricultural fields. The land use around the campus is typical of a rural/urban landscape. It is bounded by residential and commercial development to the east, south, and west. Agriculture fields and a canal lie to the north. At the time of the site visit, the agricultural fields within and surrounding the BSA were planted with wheat, and the canal was dry and freshly scraped of vegetation. Additionally, there is a solar farm to the northwest of the site. The zoning around the campus is designated as single-family residential to the west, south, and southeast, commercial on the southwest, and Limited Agricultural to the east, north, and northwest (County of Fresno, 2025).

3.4 Soils

The project site is underlain by two soil types: Chino Loam, and Grangeville Sandy Loam. The Chino Loam is the dominant soil type (Natural Resource Conservation Service, 2024).

3.5 Hydrology

The project site is in Groundwater Basin 5-022.05 of the San Joaquin Valley – Kings, and the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region (California Department of Water Resources Water Management Planning Tool, 2025). The Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region encompasses approximately 10.5 million acres and includes the drainage area south of the San Joaquin River within the San Joaquin Valley. The Kings, Kaweah, Tule, and Kern rivers, which drain the west face of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, provide the bulk of the surface water supply native to the basin. Imported surface waters enter the basin through the San Luis

Canal/California Aqueduct System, the Friant-Kern Canal, and the Delta-Mendota Canal. Of these significant water features, the Kings River is the nearest to the project, occurring as close as 4 miles east of the site. The Kings River flows west out of the mountains, southwest through the cities of Sanger and Kingsburg, and then south where it joins the Tule River. Murphy Slough, a channelized stream, is about 0.5 mile north of the campus and is used to distribute water for agriculture. Other agricultural surface water systems deliver water via several irrigation canals, Riverdale Ditch, Turner Ditch, and Burrel Ditch (see Figure 2 for the location of nearby waterways). Murphy Slough and other agricultural canals may contain water infrequently throughout the year, and year-to-year, depending on drought conditions.

3.6 General Biological Conditions

The project site contains a stormwater basin, agricultural roads, agricultural fields, and a stadium with earthen berms. The vegetation within the stormwater basin consisted of typical ruderal grasses and ruderal herbaceous plants such as brome (*Bromus sp.*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia sp.*), filaree (*Erodium sp.*), and common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*). Flat sedge (*Cyperus sp.*) was observed close to the basin's outfall grate, though the basin was completely dry at the time of the site visit. Additionally, cottonwood trees (*Populus fremontii*) and a Mexican fan palm tree (*Washingtonia robusta*) were observed growing within the basin. The agricultural roads were heavily disturbed with minimal vegetation growing along its margins, such as common groundsel, cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), brome, fiddleneck, brome-fiddleneck (*Amsinckia sp.*), and lesser swine-cress (*Lepidium didymium*). The agricultural fields are flood irrigated, though no aquatic plant species were observed. A type of wheat crop was growing in the agricultural fields at the time of the site visit. The stadium contained vegetation that consisted mostly of grassy turf and ornamental oleander shrubs (*Nerium oleander*) specifically along the stadium's berms. In areas that were not regularly landscaped, plants such as cheeseweed, puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), filaree, fiddleneck, grasses (*Brome sp.*) and nettle (*Urtica sp.*) were observed.

Birds observed during the site visit include: Red-Winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), White-Crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), House Finches (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Eurasian Collared Doves (*Streptopelia decaocto*), Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*), Red-Shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), American Crows (*Corvus branchyrhynchos*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Scrub Jays (*Aphelocoma californica*), European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), Pigeons (*Columba livia*), Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and a Black Pheobes (*Sayornis nigricans*).

Western Fence Lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) were the only reptiles observed during the site visit. No amphibians were observed during the Site visit. Ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beechyi*) were observed in burrows along the stadium berms. No ground squirrels or other mammals were observed in the agricultural fields or the stormwater basin. Gopher burrows and possible ground squirrel burrows were observed within the basin, but the burrows were not active and were filled in at the time of the site visit. Mammalian indicators observed within the basin include raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) scat and a skull that belonged to a domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*). See Photos 1 through 6 for representative photos of the project site.



Photo 1 Vegetation in Stormwater Basin



Photo 2 – Vegetation along Ag Roads



Photo 3 – Stadium Condition



Photo 4 – Oleander Shrubs on Stadium Berm



Photo 5 – Northeast corner of site and surrounding land uses.



Photo 6 – North side of Stadium Parking Lot

The off-site study areas consisted of canal crossings over Murphy Slough, Murphy Slough, and the surrounding parcels, which included agricultural fields and rural residences. Murphy Slough was completely dry at the time of the survey. The streambed consisted of a sandy substrate with visible tire marks left by off-road vehicles. Cocklebur (*Xanthium sp.*) and Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*) were the dominant plant species observed on the streambed. The dominant vegetation growing on the streambanks includes rushes (*Juncus sp.*), flat sedges (*Cyperus sp.*), and narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). Trees lined the embankments of Murphy Slough north of the Harlan Ave. crossing. These tree species included non-native Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus sp.*). Native species observed include willow trees (*Salix sp.*) and a single Blue Elderberry tree (*Sambucus mexicana*).

Similar bird species were observed at these locations as the project site, except for observations of domesticated chickens (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) at Harlan Avenue crossing, where a rural residence is present. Mammals observed include domesticated dogs at the same rural residence at the Harlan Ave. crossing. No reptiles or amphibians were observed at the off-site study areas. See Photos 7 through 10 for representative photos of the off-site study areas.



Photo 7 – Murphy Slough at S. Marks Ave.,
facing East.



Photo 8 – Murphy Slough at S. Marks Ave.,
facing West.



Photo 9 – Murphy Slough at W. Harlan Ave.,
facing east.



Photo 10 – Murphy Slough at W. Harlan Ave.,
facing North.

4.0 Findings

4.1 Special Status Plant Species

4.1.1 Results of Literature Review and Database Searches

Six (6) special-status plant species identified in the literature and database review are historically known or have the potential to occur within the nine topographic map quadrangles surrounding the proposed project site (Table A). No species are listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act or the state California Endangered Species Act. These six (6) species are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered in California by the California Native Plant Society.

Table A. List of Special Status Plant Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	California Rare Plant Status
<i>Eriastrum hooveri</i>	Hoover's eriastrum	None	None	4.2
<i>Atriplex depressa</i>	brittlescale	None	None	1B.2
<i>Lepidium jaredii</i> ssp. <i>album</i>	Panoche pepper-grass	None	None	1B.2
<i>Atriplex minuscula</i>	lesser saltscale	None	None	1B.1
<i>Lasthenia chrysantha</i>	alkali-sink goldfields	None	None	1B.1
<i>Puccinellia simplex</i>	California alkali grass	None	None	1B.2

California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California.

California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly threatened in California.

California Rare Plant Rank 4.2: Plants of limited distribution; fairly threatened in California.

4.1.2 Presence of Special Status Plant Species

No special-status plant species were observed within the proposed project area. Although the field survey did not coincide with the optimum survey period for all sensitive plant species, no habitat exists on the site that would support them.

4.2 Special Status Wildlife Species

4.2.1 Results of Literature Review and Database Searches

Twenty-three (23) special-status animal species identified in the literature and database review are historically known or have the potential to occur within the nine topographic map quadrangles surrounding the proposed project site (Table B). Five (5) species are listed as endangered, and two (2)

are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Two (2) species are proposed for listing as threatened. Eight (8) bird species are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Under the California Endangered Species Act, three (3) species are listed as threatened, three (3) are listed as endangered, and one (1) is listed as endangered and fully protected. Two (2) species are proposed for listing as threatened.

Table B. List of Special Status Wildlife Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
Amphibian			
<i>Spea hammondi</i>	western spadefoot	Proposed Threatened	None
Reptile			
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	Northwestern pond turtle	Proposed Threatened	None
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	California glossy snake	None	None
<i>Gambelia silus</i>	blunt-nosed leopard lizard	Endangered	Endangered and Fully Protected
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	giant gartersnake	Threatened	None
Birds			
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	MBTA	Candidate Endangered
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	MBTA	Threatened
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk	MBTA	Threatened
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Threatened, MBTA	Endangered
<i>Dryobates nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker	MBTA	None
<i>Icterus bullock</i>	Bullock's oriole	MBTA	None
<i>Meelospiza melodia graminea</i>	Santa Barbara song sparrow	MBTA	None
<i>Passerculus sanwicensis beldingi</i>	Belding's Savannah sparrow	MBTA	None
Mammals			

<i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i>	Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew	Endangered	None
<i>Dipodomys nitratoideus nitratoideus</i>	Tipton kangaroo rat	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dipodomys nitratoideus exilis</i>	Fresno kangaroo rat	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	San Joaquin kit fox	Endangered	Threatened
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	hoary bat	None	None
Invertebrates			
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch's bumble bee	None	Candidate Endangered
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch butterfly	Proposed Threatened	None
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None
<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	Endangered	None

MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act

4.2.2 Presence of Special Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed within the BSA. There are no vernal pools or wetlands that would support aquatic species, and there is no grassland or native shrub habitat. The proposed project site is a well-developed high school campus with about 27 acres of farmland planted with wheat. Additionally, the on-site stormwater basin is regularly disturbed by vegetation maintenance activity and does not provide a suitable habitat for the identified special status species.

The project site area does not contain adequate habitat for any special status species, as it is highly disturbed. Additionally, a portion of the site is subject to high foot traffic from visitors to the stadium and athletic fields during school events.

The off-site study areas do not contain adequate habitat for any special status species, either. Furthermore, the waterway is highly disturbed, and the presence of water is intermittent. Murphy Slough may provide habitat for migratory birds, but no more than the surrounding agricultural ditches.

4.3 Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors

As stated above in Section 4.2.1, eight (8) bird species identified in the literature and database review are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). During the site visit, none of these species were observed. However, a pair of common ravens (*Corvus corax*) were observed building a nest on a stadium-light post at the southeast corner of the existing stadium. Common ravens are currently on the

List of Migratory Birds prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2023). The location of the raven nest is shown in Figure 5.

As mentioned previously, the project site does not provide adequate habitat for special status species, including migratory birds. The stormwater basin's vegetation indicates that it is not regularly inundated and therefore does not provide good habitat for migratory aquatic birds.

4.4 Riparian and Sensitive Natural Communities

Riparian habitats or sensitive natural communities are not present at the proposed project site.

4.5 Wetlands and Waters

There are no wetlands or wetland features on the proposed project site.

4.6 Critical Habitat, Movement Corridors

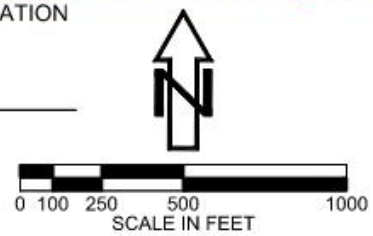
No designated Critical Habitat or movement corridors identified in the literature and database review are historically known or have the potential to occur within the nine topographic map quadrangles surrounding the proposed project site.



FIGURE 5: STUDY AREA - SCHOOL SITE (COMMON RAVEN NEST LOCATION AND 250' BUFFER)

MAP LEGEND:

- PROJECT SITE BOUNDARY
- COMMON RAVEN NEST LOCATION
- 250' CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EXCLUSION BUFFER



5.0 Potential Project Impacts

The proposed project is anticipated to have no impact on sensitive natural communities, special-status plants, special-status wildlife, wetlands, critical habitat, or migratory corridors. Construction activity would impact the nesting ravens observed during the site visit, as construction would occur within the stadium and would involve replacing existing stadium lights. No special status plant or wildlife species were observed during the survey, and there was no suitable habitat for these species. The survey took place early in the nesting bird season, so more birds may start to build their nests within the BSA. Therefore, construction activity may impact nesting birds that were not observed at the time of the site visit.

6.0 Recommendations

The following recommended actions should be implemented throughout project construction and/or operation:

- Avoid the removal of trees where possible. If tree removal is unavoidable, then avoid removing trees during the bird nesting season, which is between February and August. If trees are required to be removed during the nesting season, see the following recommendation regarding pre-construction surveys and avoidance buffers.
- Conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey if construction activity is planned to occur between the months of February and August, which is nesting bird season. If nesting birds are observed, then a qualified biologist should monitor the nest during construction and stop construction should nesting behavior be negatively affected by construction activity. If a qualified biologist is not available for continuous monitoring, then a 250' buffer should be established where construction activity should not occur. A 500' buffer should be established for any non-listed raptor species.
- During a pre-construction nesting bird survey, if a survey is necessary, determine if the previously identified raven nest is still active. If the nest is still active, then implement the mitigation measures recommended above. Additionally, it is recommended that the light post not be removed until the nest is no longer active. See Figure 5 for a proposed buffer around the raven nest, should the District choose to use a buffer instead of a qualified biologist as mitigation to minimize impacts to an *active* raven nest.
- Cover any excavation work, such as trenches that may trap wildlife (e.g., deeper than 2 ft.), or provide means to escape excavated areas, such as plywood or other similar means. If any trapped animals are observed, provide a means for escape, and allow the animal to leave the site on its own.
- Dispose of and store trash properly to prevent impacting any animals that may pass through the site.

7.0 Summary and Conclusions

No special status species of wildlife or plants were observed during the site reconnaissance, nor was any suitable habitat observed for special status species. Overall, the project site is developed or highly disturbed. The agriculture fields are regularly planted with crops, and the high school campus is regularly maintained. The stormwater basin is less disturbed, though vegetation is removed annually from the basin. A single active nest was observed during the site visit (i.e., Common Raven) which was located on a stadium light post. It is recommended that the nest is regularly monitored during construction, or that a buffer is placed around the nest until it is no longer active. Regardless, it is recommended that a pre-construction nesting bird survey occurs before construction starts, and it is also recommended that other best management practices are implemented to prevent impacts to wildlife within the BSA during the project's construction and operational phase.

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