

# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

**SAN JOAQUIN BEWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT  
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



**LSA**

December 2024

# **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT**

## **SAN JOAQUIN BEWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Submitted to:

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Project No. 20242005.01



December 2024

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

LSA has prepared a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) in support of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance for development of the San Joaquin (SJ) BeWell Behavioral Health Campus Project (Project) (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 193-05-027) in French Camp, just south of the Stockton, San Joaquin County, California (**Figure 1**).

This BRA describes existing biological resources in the Project site, including potentially occurring special-status species, sensitive natural communities, and jurisdictional features; identifies potential impacts to biological resources associated with implementation of the proposed Project, and recommends mitigation measures, where required, to reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

### 1.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Biological Study Area (BSA) for the Project totals 19.37 acres and is in the unincorporated community of French Camp, just south of the Stockton in San Joaquin County (**Figures 2 and 3**). The Project site is bounded by undeveloped land to the north, South El Dorado Street to the east, West Hospital Road to the south, and Interstate 5 (I-5) to the west. Residential uses are located to the northeast and south of the Project site. An area of light industrial use is located to the southeast, across West Hospital Road, at the corner of South El Dorado Street. The San Joaquin General Hospital campus lies across I-5 from the Project site.

### 1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project would develop the Project site with the SJ BeWell Campus. The SJ BeWell Campus is envisioned for development as two campuses: South Campus and North Campus. The South Campus would be initially developed with four buildings totaling up to 220,000 square feet, 409 parking spaces, and extensive outdoor amenities including walking trails, activity areas, a community garden, an area of respite, and other landscaped areas. The South Campus would provide a continuum of behavioral health and wellness care, including outpatient, urgent care, and residential treatment services. **Appendix A** includes the conceptual design plans for the proposed Project.

The North Campus would be developed after the South Campus and would include ten buildings that would support expanded outpatient treatment programs, residential treatment services, expanded educational and social resources, and additional programs for family and youth. The North Campus building facilities would total approximately 155,000 square feet.

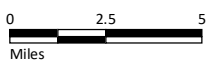
Vehicle access to the Project site would be provided via two driveways; one 37-foot opening to South El Dorado Street, roughly mid-way along the Project site boundary, and a second 30-foot driveway at the southwestern corner of the Project site that would open onto West Hospital Road near the I-5 right of way. The Project site is not currently served by sanitary sewer, storm drain, or water service. The proposed Project would connect the project site to existing infrastructure in surrounding rights-of-way.



**LSA**

LEGEND

 Project Location



SOURCE: ESRI World Street Map (12/2024)

I:\2024\20242005.01\GIS\MXD\BRA\RegLoc.mxd (12/3/2024)

FIGURE 1

*San Joaquin Be Well  
Behavioral Health Campus Project  
French Camp, San Joaquin County, California  
LSA Project No. 20242005.01*

Regional Location

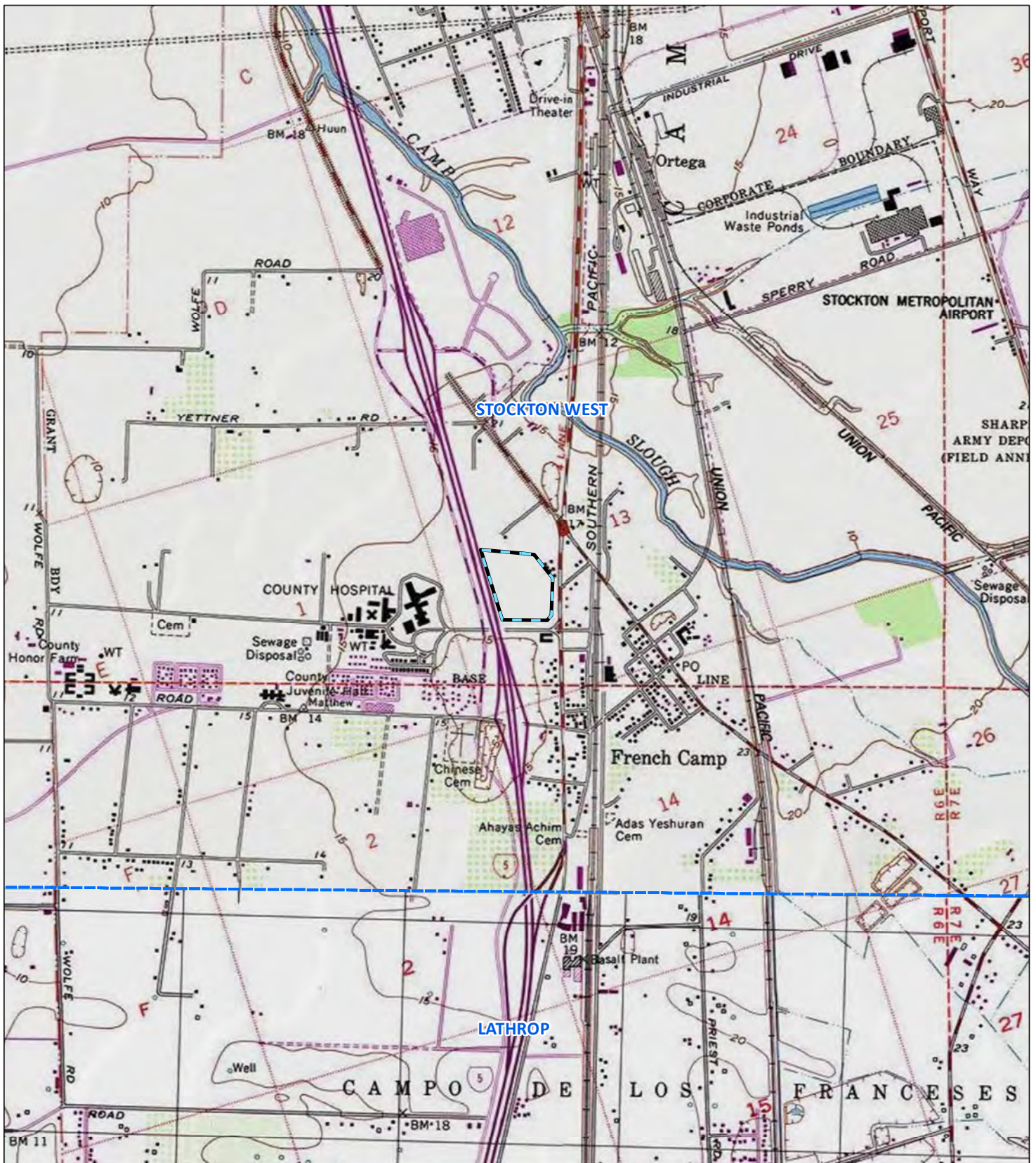




FIGURE 2

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-  Biological Study Area - (19.37 ac)
-  USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Boundaries



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Topographic Quadrangle - Stockton West, CA (1968, 1987 ed.)

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San Joaquin BeWell  
 Behavioral Health Campus Project  
 French Camp, San Joaquin County, California  
 LSA Project No. 20242005.01

Biological Study Area Vicinity on Topographic Base



Construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to last approximately 18 months, beginning May 2026 and ending September 2027.

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## 2.0 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

### 2.1 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

For the purposes of this BRA, special-status biological resources include:

- Species listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA); species that are under review may be included if there is a reasonable expectation of listing within the life of the Project;
- Species listed as candidate, threatened, or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA);
- Species designated as Fully Protected or Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW);
- Plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) in categories 1 or 2;
- Covered species under the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP);
- Species designated as locally important by the Local Agency and/or otherwise protected through ordinance or local policy;
- Sensitive natural communities as defined by the CDFW or local agencies; and
- Aquatic features.

### 2.2 REGULATORY SETTING

Federal, State, and local environmental laws, regulations, and policies relevant to the Project and the CEQA review process and SJMSCP requirements are summarized below.

#### 2.2.1 Federal Laws and Regulations

##### 2.2.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

Under FESA, it is unlawful to “take any species listed as threatened or endangered”. “Take” is defined as to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.” An activity is defined as “take” even if it is unintentional or accidental. “Take” provisions under FESA apply only to listed fish and wildlife species under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Consultation with USFWS or NMFS is required for projects that include a federal action or federal funding if a project “may affect” a listed species.

Section 7(a)(2) of FESA requires all federal agencies, including the USFWS and NMFS, to evaluate the project with respect to any species proposed for listing or already listed as endangered or threatened and their critical habitat, if any is proposed or designated. Federal agencies must undertake programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and are prohibited from authorizing, funding, or carrying out any action that would jeopardize a listed species or destroy or modify its “critical habitat.”

For federally listed species covered under the SJMSCP, the Biological Opinions issued by the USFWS and NMFS provide take coverage for covered activities that may impact federally listed species that are covered species under the SJMSCP. No further consultation is required if the covered project complies with SJMSCP requirements. For federally listed species that are not covered species under the SJMSCP, take coverage is required as outlined below.

In the context of the proposed project, FESA consultation with USFWS or NMFS would be initiated if the Project results in the potential for take of a threatened or endangered species not covered under the SJMSCP or if issuance of a Section 404 permit or other federal agency action could result in take of an endangered species not covered under the SJMSCP or adversely modify the critical habitat of such a species.

### **San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan**

The SJMSCP, in accordance with FESA Section 10(a)(1)(B) and CESA Section 2081(b) Incidental Take Permits, provides compensation for the conversion of open space to non-open space uses which affect the plant, fish, and wildlife species covered by the SJMSCP. The SJMSCP compensates for conversions of open space for the following activities: urban development, mining, expansion of existing urban boundaries, non-agricultural activities occurring outside of urban boundaries, levee maintenance undertaken by the San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency, transportation projects, school expansions, non-federal flood control projects, new parks and trails, maintenance of existing facilities for non-federal irrigation district projects, utility installation, maintenance activities, managing preserves, and similar public agency projects. These activities will be undertaken by both public and private individuals and agencies throughout San Joaquin County and within that County’s incorporated cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, and Tracy. Public agencies including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (for transportation projects) and SJCOG will also undertake activities, which will be covered by the SJMSCP.

The SJMSCP is implemented by SJCOG in coordination with the plan participants. One of the primary goals of the SJMSCP was to obtain permits from State and federal agencies that would cover projects over the next 50 years. To this end, the USFWS and CDFW have issued incidental take permits in conformance with FESA and CESA. Activities impacting anadromous fish and waters of the United States are subject to NMFS and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulations, respectively, and are not covered under the SJMSCP. These activities must be permitted directly through NMFS and USACE. Generally, the direct take of species is not covered under the SJMSCP; only take of suitable habitat is allowed based on appropriate compensation and implementation of avoidance and minimization measures. Additionally, some special-status species are not covered under the SJMSCP and impacts to these species require direct permitting through the appropriate agency.

The SJMSCP includes species-specific Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMMs) to minimize impacts to covered species. These ITMMs must be included as conditions of project approval.

Compensation for impacts to habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species covered under the SJMSCP may be provided by one or more of the following options:

- Payment of the appropriate mitigation fee;
- Dedication of mitigation lands
- Purchase of approved mitigation bank credits; or
- Propose an alternative mitigation plan.

#### 2.2.1.2 Federal Clean Water Act

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) provides guidance for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

Section 404 establishes a permit program administered by the USACE that regulates the discharge of the dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The USACE implementing regulations are found in CFR Title 33, Sections 320 and 330. Guidelines for implementation are referred to as the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, which were developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in conjunction with USACE (40 CFR 230). The guidelines allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system only if there is no practicable alternative that would have less adverse impacts.

Section 401 requires that a Project applicant that is pursuing a federal license or permit allowing a discharge to waters of the United States obtain State Certification of Water Quality, thereby ensuring that the discharge will comply with provisions of the CWA. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) administers the certification program in California, primarily through its regional boards. Section 402 establishes a permitting system for the discharge of any pollutant (except dredged or fill material) into waters of the United States.

Under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, the USACE regulates the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. Navigable waters are defined as "those waters of the U.S. that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide shoreward to the mean high water mark, and/or are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible to use to transport interstate or foreign commerce."

#### 2.2.1.3 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. SECTIONS 703-711) is the domestic law that affirms and implements a commitment by the United States to four international conventions (with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia) for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. Unless and except as permitted by regulations, the MBTA makes it unlawful at any time, by any means, or in any manner to intentionally pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill migratory birds anywhere in the United

States. The law also applies to the intentional disturbance and removal of nests occupied by migratory birds or their eggs during the breeding season.

#### 2.2.1.4 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) of 1940 protects bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) by prohibiting the taking, possession, and commerce of these species and established civil penalties for violation of this act. Take of bald and golden eagles includes to “pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb.” To disturb means to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available: (1) injury to an eagle; (2) a decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior; or (3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior (Federal Register, volume 72, page 31132; 50 CFR 22.3).

The BGEPA was amended in 2022 to allow USFWS to issue permission for take of bald and golden eagles under specific circumstances as outlined in 50 CFR 22 Subpart C. Take permits may be issued where “the take is compatible with the preservation of the bald eagle and the golden eagle; is necessary to protect an interest in a particular locality; is associated with, but not the purpose of, the activity; and cannot practicably be avoided” (50 CFR 22.80).

## 2.2.2 State Laws and Regulations

### 2.2.2.1 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is California’s broadest environmental law, and it applies to all discretionary projects proposed to be conducted or approved by a State, county, or city agency, as well as private projects requiring discretionary government approval. The purpose of CEQA is to disclose to the public the significant environmental effects of a proposed discretionary project; prevent or minimize damage to the environment through development of project alternatives, mitigation measures, and mitigation monitoring; disclose to the public the agency decision-making process to approve discretionary projects; enhance public participation in the environmental review process; and improve interagency coordination.

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

- Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS;

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

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

#### 2.2.2.2 California Endangered Species Act

CESA establishes the policy of the State to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance threatened or endangered species and their habitats. CESA mandates that State agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species if reasonable and prudent alternatives are available that would avoid jeopardy. For projects that would result in take of a species listed under CESA, a project proponent would need to obtain a take permit under Section 2081(b). Alternatively, CDFW has the option of issuing a Consistency Determination (Section 2080.1) for projects that would affect a species listed under both CESA and FESA, as long as compliance with FESA would satisfy the “fully mitigate” standard of CESA and other applicable conditions. As with FESA, for covered projects that may impact state-listed species under CESA that are also covered species under the SJMSCP, direct consultation with CDFW for state-listed take authorization is not required if the covered project complies with SJMSCP requirements. See Section 2.2.1.1.

#### 2.2.2.3 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

“Waters of the State” are broadly defined by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (§ 1305(e)) as “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the

state.” Under this definition, isolated wetlands that may not be subject to regulations under federal law are waters of the State.

The California Water Code defines “waters of the State” to include any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State.

On April 2, 2019, the SWRCB adopted its *State Policy for Water Quality Control: State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State* (revised April 6, 2021), herein referred to as Procedures, in which it defined wetlands as follows:

*An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area’s vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.*

All artificial wetlands that are less than 1 acre in size and do not satisfy the criteria set forth in 2, 3.a, 3.b, or 3.c are not waters of the State.

All waters of the United States, including that meet the current and any historic definition, are also considered waters of the State (CCR 23 3831 (w)). Therefore, waters of the State include features that have been determined by the USEPA or the USACE to be “waters of the United States” in an approved jurisdictional determination; “waters of the United States” identified in an aquatic resource report verified by the USACE upon which a permitting decision was based; and features that are consistent with any current or historic final judicial interpretation of “waters of the United States” or any current or historic federal regulation defining “waters of the United States” under the federal CWA.

The State’s definition of a wetland deviates from the USACE procedures in that a lack of vegetation does not disqualify a feature from identification as a wetland water of the State, otherwise referred to as nonfederal waters of the State.

The State is further required to comply with Executive Order W-59-93 published August 23, 1993, which states that the “Water Boards’ regulation of dredge and fill activities must ensure “no net loss” and long-term net gain in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands acreages and values....”

#### 2.2.2.4 California Fish and Game Code

Various sections of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) that are relevant to the Project are described below.

##### **Sections 1600 through 1616**

CDFW regulates all activities (construction, discharge, dredge, diversion, etc.) within rivers, streams, and lakes, and associated riparian vegetation, under CFGC 1600 *et seq.* This includes all such features on public and private lands throughout California. The regulatory limits of their jurisdiction

are generally considered to include all area within the bed, bank, and channel of a river, stream, or lake, plus the outer extent of riparian vegetation immediately adjacent to these aquatic features. Recently CDFW has asserted jurisdiction as far out as the limits of the 100-year floodplain around rivers, streams, and lakes. This also includes man-made and/or channelized streams located where natural streams historically occurred, or that are connected to natural streams. Isolated wetlands that are not located within the jurisdictional limits described here are not regulated by CDFW.

### **Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513**

Under CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, the project proponent is not allowed to conduct activities that would result in the taking, possessing, or destroying of any birds of prey; the taking or possessing of any migratory nongame bird; the taking, possessing, or needlessly destroying of the nest or eggs of any raptors or nongame birds; or the taking of any nongame bird pursuant to CFGC Section 3800. CFGC Section 3513 adopts the federal Department of the Interior take provisions under the MBTA. **Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515**

The protection of fully protected species is described in Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 of the CFGC. These statutes prohibit the take or possession of fully protected species. CDFW is unable to authorize incidental take of fully protected species, except as allowed for in an approved NCCP or through direct legislative action.

### **Sections 1900 through 1913—Native Plant Protection Act**

California's Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) requires all State agencies to use their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants. Provision of the NPPA prohibit that taking of listed plants from the wild and require notification of CDFW at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use. This allows CDFW to salvage listed plant species that otherwise would be destroyed. A project proponent is required to conduct botanical inventories and consult with CDFW during project planning to comply with the provisions of this act and sections of CEQA that apply to rare or endangered plants.

## **2.2.3 Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies**

### **2.2.3.1 San Joaquin County General Plan**

The following objectives and implementing policies from the San Joaquin County General Plan (San Joaquin County 2016) related to biological resources are applicable to the Project site.

- **NCR-2.1: Protect Significant Biological and Ecological Resources.** The County shall protect significant biological and ecological resources including: wetlands; riparian areas; vernal pools; significant oak woodlands and heritage trees; and rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats.
- **NCR-2.2: Collaboration for Species Protection.** The County shall collaborate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife during the review of new development proposals to identify methods to protect listed species.

- **NCR-2.3: San Joaquin County MultiSpecies Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan.** The County shall continue to implement the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan to mitigate biological impacts resulting from open space land conversion.
- **NCR-2.12: Encourage Native Landscaping.** The County shall encourage the use of native plants for landscaping to provide suitable habitat for native wildlife.

#### 2.2.3.2 San Joaquin County Tree Protection Ordinance

Section 9-400.80 of the San Joaquin County Municipal Code is intended to preserve the County's tree resources by requiring replacement of protected trees where removal is allowed. It applies to all development projects requiring discretionary approval that have native oak trees, heritage oak trees, or historical trees on the property, unless otherwise exempt. A zoning compliance review is required for the removal of a heritage oak tree, historical tree or native oak tree, and replacement trees are required.

## 3.0 METHODS

Prior to conducting any field studies, the limits of the BSA were established, as shown in **Figure 3**. The BSA, totaling 19.37 ac and is located on [APN] 193-05-027.

### 3.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

A list of sensitive wildlife and plant species potentially occurring within the BSA was compiled to evaluate potential impacts resulting from the construction of the Project. Sources used to compile the list include the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB), the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory (CNPS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPaC Trust Resources Report (USFWS), For the CNDDDB and CNPS, records were reviewed for the following USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: Stockton West, Stockton East, Lathrop and Manteca. The individual lists are included in **Appendix B**.

The special-status species lists obtained from the CNDDDB, CNPS, and USFWS were reviewed to determine which species could potentially occur within the BSA. The determination of whether a species could potentially occur within the BSA was based on the availability of suitable habitat for that species within the BSA, whether the BSA is within the species' known range, as well as known occurrences of the species in or adjacent to the BSA according to the CNDDDB. Species requiring specific habitat not present in the vicinity of the Project were eliminated as potentially occurring and are not discussed further. Those species that could potentially occur in the BSA based on habitat suitability or known occurrences in or within the vicinity of the BSA are discussed in Section 5.

### 3.2 FIELD SURVEY

The studies required to fully document the environmental conditions of the BSA included a general biological survey, vegetation mapping, botanical survey, wetland delineation, and a tree inventory.

#### 3.2.1 General Biological Survey /Vegetation Mapping

The general biological survey was conducted by LSA biologist Jeremy Foreman on October 2, 2024. The entire BSA was surveyed on foot, adjacent areas within 500 feet were inspected utilizing binoculars (10x40) and a spotting scope (22xW.A.). All plants and wildlife were identified to species, or to a sufficient level of taxonomy to ensure they were not special-status species. Wildlife was observed to determine utilization of the BSA. Habitat mapping and vegetation types in the BSA were classified in accordance with the SJMSCP Biological Analyses (1996) and City of Stockton Compensation Mapping (2007) to facilitate determination of impacts and compensation for SJMSCP covered activities. The names of the plant species are consistent with The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition (Baldwin, B. G., et. al., editors 2012) and the Jepson Online Interchange for California Floristics (Jepson eFlora 2024). Managed or developed areas were classified according to their dominant plant species.

## 4.0 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Using the information obtained from the sources listed in Section 3.1 above, this section describes existing vegetation and wildlife habitat values, observed or potentially occurring special-status plant and wildlife species, sensitive vegetation types, and potentially jurisdictional waters within the BSA.

### 4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The BSA, totaling 19.37 acres, is regionally located in unincorporated San Joaquin Valley is largely undeveloped and fallow. The parcels located immediately north of the BSA and south, across West Hospital Road, are also undeveloped. Residential uses are located to the northeast and south of the BSA. An area of light industrial use is located to the southeast, across West Hospital Road, at the corner of South El Dorado Street. I-5 borders the BSA to the west. The San Joaquin General Hospital campus lies across I-5 from the BSA. The BSA appears to be disked or grubbed on a quarterly basis and was disked/grubbed in the in the month prior to the general biological survey, thus most of the site was vegetated with various ruderal plant species ranging from 24-36 inches in height. Additionally, there are multiple spoils piles and wind-rowed berms covered in tall ruderal vegetation covering them throughout.

Topography in the BSA, as well as the surrounding region consists of generally flat terrain typical of the valley floor; the elevation is approximately 18 feet above mean sea level.

### 4.2 BIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

#### 4.2.1 Plant Communities and Land Uses

Ruderal agricultural habitats comprise approximately 18.18 acres of the BSA. The remaining 1.19 acres are classified as Urban/industrial/Built (**Figure 4**).

##### 4.2.1.1 Ruderal Agricultural

The ruderal agricultural community, totaling 18.18 acres, is dispersed throughout the BSA. Ruderal agricultural are typically agricultural lands that are not currently in active production and are highly altered or disturbed grasslands comprised of mainly introduced annual grassed and other exotic forbs. Within the BSA, this community is dominated by ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), wild barley (*Hordeum spontaneum*), medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*), and hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), with a number of other grasses and forbs occurring in smaller numbers, including wild oat (*Avena fatua*), Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), narrow tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata*), and filaree (*Erodium* sp.).



FIGURE 4

LSA

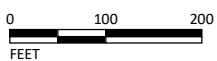
LEGEND

Biological Study Area - (19.37 ac)

SJMSCP Habitat Types - (19.37 ac)

C5 - Ruderal Agriculture - (18.18 ac)

U - Urban/Industrial/Built - (1.19 ac)



SOURCE: Basemap - Google Aerial Imagery (3/2022); Mapping - City of Stockton (2007)

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San Joaquin BeWell  
 Behavioral Health Campus Project  
 French Camp, San Joaquin County, California  
 LSA Project No. 20242005.01  
 SJMSCP Habitat Types

#### 4.2.1.2 Urban/Industrial/Built

The Urban/Industrial/Built community, totaling 1.19 acres, is primarily located in the western and eastern perimeters of the BSA. This community is dominated by the ruderal grassland community, with additional dominant grasses and forbs that include rigpgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), medusahead (*Elymus caput-medusae*). Four valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) are located on the I-5 north embankment adjacent to the BSA.

### 4.2.2 Wildlife Use

Wildlife species observed or expected to occur within the BSA are those adapted to ruderal grasslands, light industrial and urban lands within San Joaquin County.

#### 4.2.2.1 Mammals

Mammal species observed during the general biological survey include jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*).

#### 4.2.2.2 Birds

Bird species observed during the general biological field survey include Common raven (*Corvus corax*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). No special-status species birds or evidence of site utilization was observed during the biological survey.

#### 4.2.2.3 Amphibians and Reptiles

No amphibian species were observed during the general biological survey.

### 4.2.3 Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement corridors are linear habitats that function to connect two or more areas of significant wildlife habitat. These corridors may function on a local level as links between small habitat patches (e.g., streams in urban settings) or may provide critical connections between regionally significant habitats (e.g., deer movement corridors). Wildlife corridors typically include vegetation and topography that facilitate the movements of wild animals from one area of suitable habitat to another to fulfill foraging, breeding, and territorial needs. These corridors often provide cover and protection from predators that may be lacking in surrounding habitats. Wildlife corridors generally include riparian zones and similar linear expanses of contiguous habitat.

The BSA is bounded by a multi-lane interstate highway, multi-lane roadways, residential, and light industrial areas, which likely impede significant wildlife movement through the BSA. There are no significant migration corridors that exist within the BSA. French Camp Slough, which is a tributary to the San Joaquin River, is located approximately 0.42 mile northeast of the BSA and likely supports wildlife movement in the vicinity of the BSA.

#### 4.2.4 Invasive Species

Many non-native species have been part of the California landscape for the past 150 years and are considered naturalized in the wild. Some examples of these introduced species observed during the survey include ripgut brome, wild oat, wild barley, Italian ryegrass. These species are primarily annual or biennial and considered to be moderately invasive. Two species observed in the BSA during the survey, yellow star thistle and medusahead, have an invasive rating of 'High' per the California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Plant Inventory online database.

## 5.0 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES AND SENSITIVE HABITATS

A review was conducted of the specific habitat required by each species identified by the special-status species searches (see **Appendix B** for individual lists) and the specific habitats and habitat conditions present in the BSA. Based on this evaluation, it was determined whether the special-status species identified by the searches had potential to occur in the BSA. Special-status species that were observed or determine to potentially occur in the BSA based on availability of suitable habitat or other factors such as scat, nests, dens, etc. are discussed more fully below. Species determined unlikely to occur in the BSA based on these same factors are not discussed any further.

### 5.1 SENSITIVE HABITATS

No sensitive habitats or natural communities of special concern occur in the BSA; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur to sensitive habitats. The BSA is not located within designated critical habitat for any listed plant or wildlife species.

However, land conversion fees are required for coverage under the SJMSCP. Consistent with the SJCOG Habitat Compensation Mapping (1999) and City of Stockton Compensation Mapping (2007), the 18.18 acres of Agricultural lands require compensation; there are no fees associated with Urban/Industrial/Built land. Per the SJMSCP 2025 Fee Schedule, Agricultural land rates are \$16,492 per acre, for a total of \$299,825 for conversion of 18.18 acres. **Figure 5** breaks down the required fees.

### 5.2 SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES

There were 19 special-status plant species identified in the record searches. Species that require specific habitat not present in the BSA were eliminated as potentially occurring and are not discussed further. Of the 19 special-status plant species considered, none are expected to occur in the BSA; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur to special status plants.

### 5.3 SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

After evaluation of the special-status wildlife species with potential to occur in the BSA, the following wildlife species were determined to have a reasonable likelihood of occurring in the BSA and, therefore, may be affected by the Project.

#### 5.3.1 Western Burrowing Owl

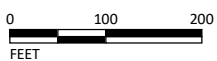
Western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is a State Candidate and an SJMSCP covered species; it has no formal federal status. Burrowing owls occur in warm valleys, open, dry grasslands, deserts, and scrublands associated with agriculture and urban areas that support populations of California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*). Burrowing owls nest below ground, using abandoned burrows of other species (mostly ground squirrel) and feed on insects and small mammals.

Burrowing owl is well documented in the area. The CNDDDB includes a total of 27 records for this species within the 4-quadrangle search area. The closest occurrence, dated 2004, is from approximately 0.97 mile southwest of the BSA in a ruderal area south of West Matthews Road.






FIGURE 5


LSA



LEGEND

-  Biological Study Area - (19.37 ac)
- SJMSCP Coverage Area - (19.37 ac)**
-  Agriculture - (18.18 ac)
-  Urban / No Pay - (1.19 ac)

**SJMSCP Compensation Areas\***

-  Agriculture - (18.18 ac @ \$16,492 = \$299,825)

\*Costs per 2025 SJMSCP Fee Schedule

San Joaquin BeWell  
Behavioral Health Campus Project  
French Camp, San Joaquin County, California  
LSA Project No. 20242005.01

**SJMSCP Coverage and Compensation Areas**

SOURCE: Basemap - Google Aerial Imagery (3/2022); Mapping - SJCOG Fee Areas (2025); City of Stockton (2007)

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No burrowing owls or sign of owls were observed in the BSA. However, the ruderal grasslands adjacent and within the BSA provide potential foraging and nesting habitat for burrowing owl. The ruderal grassland areas within the BSA appear to be disced or grubbed on a quarterly basis. Most of the BSA is vegetated with various ruderal plant species ranging from 24-36 inches in height. Multiple spoil piles and wind-rowed berms covered in tall vegetation are also present. However, there was one spoil pile that recently caught fire and is currently unvegetated. No burrows were observed in the debris or stockpiled gravel mounds. Ground squirrel complexes with burrows of suitable size were observed in the interior of the BSA. No sign of owl presence (e.g., whitewash, prey remains, etc.) was observed during the biological survey.

Due to the presence of suitable nesting and foraging habitat in and adjacent to the BSA, burrowing owl are considered to have a moderate potential to forage and nest within the BSA.

### 5.3.2 Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is a State threatened and is an SJMSCP covered species; it has no formal federal status. Swainson's hawk breed as far north as Alaska and Arctic Canada, across the Great Basin, Rocky Mountains, and Great Plains, and in an isolated breeding population from Shasta County south through much of the Central Valley. They are long distance migrants, wintering primarily in South America, returning north to breed. They return to the Central Valley in mid-March and begin migrating south in August. Nests are built in the tops of large trees, primarily those associated with riparian habitats. Home ranges maintained by Swainson's hawks average about 6,800 acres, and they are known to forage up to 10 miles from their nest sites.

There are numerous (108) CNDDDB occurrences of Swainson's hawk within the 4-quadrangle search area, the nearest of which is approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the BSA in what is now an industrial facility and no longer present.

No Swainson's hawks were observed during field surveys. However, there are four interior live oak trees (*Quercus wislizeni*) of suitable size located adjacent to the BSA that provide suitable nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk. Three of the oak trees are located along the southwest perimeter of the BSA on the I-5 north embankment near the gate used to enter the BSA and the fourth is located approximately 0.07 mile north of the West Hospital Road/I-5 Overpass. Additionally, there are 4 coast redwood of suitable size for nesting outside the BSA along West Hospital Road. The ruderal grassland and disturbed/ruderal vegetation in the BSA provide suitable foraging habitat.

Due to the presence of suitable nesting and foraging habitat in and adjacent to the BSA, Swainson's hawks are considered to have a moderate potential to forage in BSA and nest in the BSA vicinity.

### 5.3.3 White-tailed Kite

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is a Fully Protected species in the State of California and is an SJMSCP covered species; it has no formal federal status. Its Pacific population ranges from southwestern Washington south through the Willamette Valley of Oregon and down the entire coast of California and Central Valley to Baja California. Separate populations live in southern Florida and Texas and Louisiana south through Mexico. This raptor species uses trees in open areas for nesting, and open grasslands and marshes for foraging.

There is a single CNDDDB record for white-tailed kite within the 4-quadrangle search area located approximately 3.2 miles northeast of the BSA in a residential development; this occurrence is considered extirpated.

No white-tailed kites were observed during the field survey. However, as noted in Section 5.3.2, there are numerous trees adjacent to the BSA that provide suitable nesting habitat for white-tailed kite, and the ruderal grassland and disturbed/ruderal communities provide suitable foraging habitat. Due to the presence foraging habitat in the BSA and suitable nesting adjacent to the BSA, white-tailed kites are considered to have a moderate potential to forage in the BSA and low potential to nest within the BSA.

#### 5.3.4 Loggerhead Shrike

Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a California Species of Special Concern and is an SJMSCP covered species; it has no formal federal status. Loggerhead shrikes are predatory songbirds which feed on insects, lizards, rodents, and smaller birds. They often impale their prey on barbed wire fences or thorny vegetation, and so they require habitats with at least one or the other. Nests tend to be built in dense trees or shrubs where the nests can be above ground and well hidden.

There is a single CNDDDB record for loggerhead shrike within the 4-quadrangle search area located approximately 6.1 miles south of the BSA adjacent to an industrial park in Lathrop.

No loggerhead shrikes were observed during the field survey. However, the ruderal grasslands within and adjacent to the BSA provide suitable foraging habitat for loggerhead shrike. The surrounding shrubs and trees adjacent to the BSA also provide potential nesting habitat. Due to the presence foraging habitat in the BSA and suitable nesting adjacent to the BSA, loggerhead shrikes are considered to have a moderate potential to forage in the BSA and low potential to nest within the BSA.

#### 5.3.5 Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors

Disturbance of migratory birds and raptors during their nesting season (February 1 to August 31) could result in "take" which is prohibited under the MBTA and Section 3513 of the CFGC. CFGC (Section 3503) also prohibits take or destruction of bird nests or eggs. General migratory birds are not covered under the SJMSCP.

No nesting migratory birds were observed in the BSA or immediate vicinity during the field survey. However, ground nesting migratory birds could nest within the ruderal grassland habitat in the BSA. Additionally, other nesting birds or raptors could nest along the perimeter and in the vicinity of the BSA in adjacent trees.

## 6.0 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

The following sections describe the Project's potential impacts to biological resources within the BSA. Construction of the proposed Project would result in potential impacts to nesting and foraging habitat for birds. Additional discussion of these impacts as they relate to special-status species and habitats is provided below.

### 6.1 SPECIAL-STATUS HABITATS AND SPECIES

#### 6.1.1 Sensitive Habitats

No sensitive habitats, including federal or State protected wetlands or other aquatic resources, occur in the BSA. Therefore, no impacts to sensitive habitats or regulated aquatic resources would occur, and no mitigation measures are proposed.

#### 6.1.2 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plants occur in the BSA; therefore the proposed Project will not result in impacts to special-status plants and no mitigations are proposed.

#### 6.1.3 Special-Status Wildlife

The proposed project will potentially result in impacts to special-status wildlife that occur or are likely to occur within the BSA.

##### 6.1.3.1 Western Burrowing Owl

#### Impact Evaluation

Construction could directly affect western burrowing owl if this species is nesting within or near the BSA when construction begins. The Project will also result in 18.18 acres of permanent impacts to ruderal grasslands and, to a lesser extent, disturbed/ruderal habitat which provides suitable foraging and nesting habitat burrowing owl.

#### Mitigation

Direct take of nesting burrowing owls would be in violation of the CFGC Code and MBTA; the burrowing owl is a covered species under the SJMSCP. However, the SJCOG has adopted CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owls (CDFW 2012) and have prepared additional ITMMs to cover this species. The following ITMMs are consistent with the Staff Report (CDFW 2012) and the provisions of the MBTA:

1. The presence of ground squirrels and squirrel burrows are attractive to burrowing owls. Burrowing owls may therefore be discouraged from entering or occupying construction areas by discouraging the presence of ground squirrels. To accomplish this, the Applicant should prevent ground squirrels from occupying the BSA early in the planning process by employing one of the following practices:

- a. The Applicant may plant new vegetation or retain existing vegetation entirely covering the site at a height of approximately 36 inches above the ground. Vegetation should be retained until construction begins. Vegetation will discourage both ground squirrel and owl use of the site.
  - b. Alternatively, if burrowing owls are not known or suspected to occur in the BSA and the area is an unlikely occupation site for California tiger salamander California red-legged frog, or San Joaquin kit fox, the Applicant may disc or plow the entire BSA to destroy any ground squirrel burrows. At the same time burrows are destroyed, ground squirrels should be removed through one of the following approved methods to prevent reoccupation of the BSA:
    - i. Anticoagulants. Establish bait stations using the approved rodenticide anticoagulants Chlorophacinone or Diphacinone. Rodenticides shall be used in compliance with USEPA label standards and as directed by the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner (SJAC).
    - ii. Zinc Phosphide. Establish bait stations with non-treated grain 5-7 calendar days in advance of rodenticide application, and then apply Zinc Phosphide to bait stations. Rodenticides shall be used in compliance with the U.S. EPA label standards and as directed by the SJAC.
    - iii. Fumigants. Use below-ground gas cartridges or pellets and seal burrows. Approved fumigants include Aluminum Phosphide (Fumitoxin, Phostoxin) and gas cartridges sold by the SJAC office. NOTE: Crumpled newspaper covered with soil is often an effective seal for burrows when fumigants are used. Fumigants shall be used in compliance with the USEPA label standards and as directed by the SJAC.
    - iv. Traps. For areas with minimal rodent populations, traps may be effective for eliminating rodents. If trapping activities are required, the use of traps shall be consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.
2. If the measures described above were not attempted or were attempted but failed, and burrowing owls are known to occupy the BSA, then the following measures shall be implemented in accordance with the Staff Report (CDFW, 2012):
- a. Breeding season (February 1 through August 31): Pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls will be performed no more than 14 days prior to initial ground disturbance activities in accordance with the Staff Report (CDFW, 2012).
    - i. Any occupied burrows shall not be disturbed and shall be provided with a 250-foot protective buffer until and unless the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with the concurrence of the Permitting Agencies (representatives on the TAC); or unless a qualified biologist approved by the Permitting Agencies verifies through non-invasive means that either: 1) the

owls have not begun egg laying, or 2) juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.

- ii. Once the fledglings are capable of independent survival, a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan is developed and approved by the applicable CDFW SJMSCP representative/office, and habitat is mitigated in accordance with the Staff Report (CDFW 2012), then the burrows can be destroyed. Pre-construction surveys following destruction of burrows and prior to initial construction activities are recommended to ensure owls do not re-colonize the BSA.
  - iii. If project activities are delayed or suspended for more than 15 days during the breeding season, surveys will be repeated.
- b. Non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31): Pre-construction surveys following the Staff Report (CDFW 2012) will be performed prior to initial ground disturbance activities. Burrowing owls may be evicted after a Burrowing Owl Exclusion Plan is developed and approved by the applicable CDFW SJMSCP representative/office and habitat is mitigated in accordance with the Staff Report (CDFW 2012).

Pre-construction surveys following destruction of burrows and prior to initial construction activities are recommended to ensure owls do not re-colonize the BSA. If owls are found within 160 feet of the BSA, it is recommended that visual screens or other measures are implemented to limit disturbance of the owls without evicting them from the occupied burrows.

Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall implement the SJMSCP conservation strategy, as described in Section 2.2.1.1, to provide compensation pursuant to the SJMSCP.

### 6.1.3.2 Swainson's Hawk

#### Impact Evaluation

Construction could directly affect Swainson's hawk if this species is nesting within or near the BSA when construction begins. The Project will also result in 18.18 acres of permanent impacts to ruderal grasslands and, to a lesser extent, disturbed/ruderal habitat which provide suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk.

#### Mitigation

Direct take of nesting Swainson's hawk would be in violation of the CFGC and MBTA. In addition, this species is covered under the SJMSCP. The following measures are consistent with the SJMSCP ITMMs for this species and the provisions of the MBTA:

1. Removal of suitable nest trees shall be completed during the non-nesting season (when the nests are unoccupied), between September 1 and February 15.

2. If suitable nest trees will be retained and ground disturbing activities will commence during the nesting season (February 16 through August 31), all suitable nest trees on the site will be surveyed by a qualified biologist prior to initiating construction-related activities. Surveys will be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the start of work. If an active nest is discovered, a 100-foot buffer shall be established around the nest tree and delineated using orange construction fence or equivalent. The buffer shall be maintained in place until the end of the breeding season or until the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist. If no active nests are present, construction may proceed as planned.

In some instances, CDFW may approve decreasing the specified buffers with implementation of other avoidance and minimization measures (e.g., having a qualified biologist on-site during construction activities during the nesting season to monitor nesting activity). If no nesting is discovered, construction can begin as planned. Construction beginning during the non-nesting season and continuing into the nesting season shall not be subject to these measures but will still need to comply with MBTA and CESA (which could include monitoring).

Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall implement the SJMSCP conservation strategy, as described in Section 2.2.1.1, to provide compensation pursuant to the SJMSCP.

#### 6.1.3.3 White-tailed Kite

##### Impact Evaluation

Construction could directly affect white-tailed kite if this species is nesting within or near the BSA when construction begins. The Project will also result in 18.18 acres of permanent impacts to ruderal grasslands and, to a lesser extent, disturbed/ruderal habitat which provides suitable foraging habitat for white-tailed kite.

##### Mitigation

Direct take of white-tailed kites would be in violation of the CFGC and MBTA; the white-tailed kite is a covered species under the SJMSCP. The following mitigation measures are consistent with the SJMSCP ITMMs for this species and the provisions of the MBTA:

1. Preconstruction surveys shall investigate all potential nesting trees in the BSA (e.g., especially treetops 15-59 feet above the ground in oak, willow, eucalyptus, cottonwood, or other deciduous trees).
2. Whenever white-tailed kites are noted on site or within the vicinity of the BSA during the nesting season (February 15 through September 15), a setback of 100 feet from nesting areas shall be established and maintained during the nesting season for the period encompassing nest building and continuing until fledglings leave nests. This setback applies whenever construction or other ground-disturbing activities must begin during the nesting season in the presence of nests which are known to be occupied. Setbacks shall be marked by brightly colored temporary fencing.

Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall implement the SJMSCP conservation strategy, as described in Section 2.2.1.1, to provide compensation pursuant to the SJMSCP.

#### 6.1.3.4 Loggerhead Shrike

##### **Impact Evaluation**

The Project will permanently impact 18.18 acres of ruderal habitat and disturb 1.19 acres of Urban/industrial/built habitat, which is potential nesting and foraging habitat for Loggerhead shrike. Permanent impacts will occur because of project cut and fill activities, project access and staging during construction activities.

##### **Mitigation**

Direct take of loggerhead shrike would be in violation of the CFGC and MBTA; loggerhead shrike is a covered species under the SJMSCP. The following mitigation measures are consistent with the SJMSCP ITMMs for this species and the provisions of the MBTA:

1. If project construction is to begin during the nesting season (March 1 - September 15), all suitable nesting habitat in the BSA and within 100 feet of the limits of work shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist prior to initiating construction-related activities. Surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the start of work.
2. If nesting areas are identified, a setback of 100 feet from colonial nesting areas shall be established and maintained during the nesting season for the period encompassing nest building and continuing until fledglings leave nests. This setback applies whenever construction or other ground-disturbing activities must begin during the nesting season in the presence of nests which are known to be occupied. Setbacks shall be marked by brightly colored temporary fencing.

Prior to issuance of a grading permit, the Applicant shall implement the SJMSCP conservation strategy, as described in Section 2.2.1.1, to provide compensation pursuant to the SJMSCP.

#### 6.1.3.5 Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors

##### **Impact Evaluation**

Construction could directly affect migratory nesting birds nesting within or near the BSA when construction begins. The Project will also result in 18.18 acres of permanent impacts to ruderal grasslands and disturbed/ruderal habitat which provide suitable nesting habitat.

##### **Mitigation**

The following seasonal work restrictions shall be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for take of nesting birds:

1. If work must begin during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall survey all suitable nesting habitat in the BSA for presence of nesting birds. This survey shall

occur no more than 10 days prior to the start of construction. If no nesting activity is observed, work may proceed as planned. If an active nest is discovered, a qualified biologist shall evaluate the potential for the proposed project to disturb nesting activities. The evaluation criteria shall include, but are not limited to, the location/orientation of the nest in the nest tree, the distance of the nest from the BSA, and line of sight between the nest and the BSA.

2. If nesting birds are found within 100 feet of the BSA during the survey, an initial setback of 100 feet from nesting areas shall be established and protected with environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing. ESA fencing shall be maintained during the nesting season until construction is complete or the young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist.
3. A qualified biologist shall evaluate the potential for the proposed work to disturb nesting activities considering the 100-foot setback. The evaluation criteria shall include, but are not limited to, the location/orientation of the nest in the nest tree, the distance of the nest to the work limits, the line of sight between the nest and the work limits, and the description of the proposed work.

With the implementation of this mitigation measure, impacts to migratory birds would be less than significant under CEQA.

## 6.2 WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

The BSA is bounded by a multi-lane interstate highway, multi-lane roadways, residential, and light industrial areas, which likely impede significant wildlife movement through the BSA. There are no significant migration corridors that exist within the BSA. French Camp Slough, which is a tributary to the San Joaquin River, is located approximately 0.42 mile northeast of the BSA and likely supports wildlife movement in the vicinity of the BSA. However, this movement corridor would not be impacted by the proposed Project. There are no native wildlife nursery sites located on or adjacent to the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no impacts to established wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites and it would not otherwise impact local wildlife movement or inhibit the ability of local wildlife to access the BSA. No mitigation measures are required.

## 6.3 LOCAL POLICIES OR ORDINANCES AND ADOPTED OR APPROVED PLANS

The San Joaquin County General Plan includes several policies aimed at protecting natural resources, as described in Section 2.2.3. The proposed Project would implement the above mitigation measures to avoid impacts to special-status species, including nesting birds. No impacts to wetlands, other regulated aquatic resources, or sensitive habitats would occur.

The proposed Project would not conflict with any other local policies and ordinances, such as the City's tree preservation policy. Thirteen trees are located along the southern and western edges of the project site. However, the existing trees are not native oak species or designated as historic or landmark trees by San Joaquin County.

As described in the sections above, the project would comply with the SJMSCP conditions, consisting of the implementation of applicable avoidance and minimization measures and payment of land conversion fees.

Therefore, with the implementation of the mitigation measures included in Section 6.1, the project would not result in any conflicts with local policies and ordinances or adopted or approved plans. No additional mitigation measures are required.

## 6.4 INVASIVE SPECIES

### Impact Evaluation

Construction activities could introduce or spread invasive species during ground disturbance in the BSA.

### Mitigation

The measures listed below shall be implemented to mitigate impacts from invasive species.

1. A weed management plan shall be drafted for the Project, which shall include the identification and removal of noxious weeds and invasive species, use and proper maintenance of construction equipment and materials that are known to be weed-free, and inspection of vehicles entering the site to ensure the absence of excess dirt, mud, and vegetative material.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

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## **APPENDIX A**

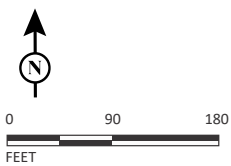
### **CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PLANS**



FIGURE 2-4

LSA

San Joaquin BeWell Behavioral Health  
Campus Project  
Conceptual Site Plan



SOURCE: Boulder Associates, 2024

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## **APPENDIX B**

### **CNDDDB, CNPS, AND USFWS LISTS**



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



**Query Criteria:** Quad IS (Stockton East (3712182) OR Stockton West (3712183) OR Lathrop (3712173) OR Manteca (3712172))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Acipenser medirostris pop. 1</i> green sturgeon - southern DPS	AFCAA01031	Threatened	None	G2T1	S1	SSC
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
<i>Ambystoma californiense pop. 1</i> California tiger salamander - central California DPS	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
<i>Astragalus tener var. tener</i> alkali milk-vetch	PDFAB0F8R1	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	Candidate Endangered	G4	S2	SSC
<i>Atriplex cordulata var. cordulata</i> heartscale	PDCHE040B0	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2
<i>Blepharizonia plumosa</i> big tarplant	PDAST1C011	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	1B.1
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	IIHYM24252	None	Candidate Endangered	G3	S1	
<i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i> American bumble bee	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> watershield	PDCAB01010	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
<i>Chloropyron palmatum</i> palmate-bracted bird's-beak	PDSCR0J0J0	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Cirsium crassicaule</i> slough thistle	PDAST2E0U0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Delphinium recurvatum</i> recurved larkspur	PDRAN0B1J0	None	None	G2?	S2	1B.2
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T3	S3	
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
<i>Eryngium racemosum</i> Delta button-celery	PDAP10Z0S0	None	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Extriplex joaquinana</i> San Joaquin spearscale	PDCHE041F3	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Gonidea angulata</i> western ridged mussel	IMBIV19010	None	None	G3	S2	



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
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> woolly rose-mallow	PDMAL0H0R3	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> Delta smelt	AFCHB01040	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
<i>Lathyrus jepsonii</i> var. <i>jepsonii</i> Delta tule pea	PDFAB250D2	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
<i>Lytta moesta</i> moestan blister beetle	IICOL4C020	None	None	G2	S2	
<i>Melospiza melodia</i> pop. 1 song sparrow ("Modesto" population)	ABPBXA3013	None	None	G5T3?Q	S3?	SSC
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 11 steelhead - Central Valley DPS	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	SSC
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	AAABF02020	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i> pop. 2 longfin smelt - San Francisco Bay-Delta DPS	AFCHB03040	Endangered	Threatened	G5TNRQ	S1	
<i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i> riparian brush rabbit	AMAEB01021	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S2	
<i>Symphotrichum lentum</i> Suisun Marsh aster	PDASTE8470	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i> giant gartersnake	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	
<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> Wright's trichocoronis	PDAST9F031	None	None	G4T3	S1	2B.1
<i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i> saline clover	PDFAB400R5	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i> caper-fruited tropidocarpum	PDBRA2R010	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S3	
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> yellow-headed blackbird	ABPBXB3010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 37



CNPS Rare Plant Inventory

**Search Results**

19 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: Quad is one of [3712182:3712183:3712173:3712172]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED
<a href="#"><u><i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>tener</i></u></a>	alkali milk-vetch	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2	Yes	1994-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Atriplex cordulata</i> var. <i>cordulata</i></u></a>	heartscale	Apr-Oct	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1988-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Blepharizonia plumosa</i></u></a>	big tarplant	Jul-Oct	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	1B.1	Yes	1994-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Brasenia schreberi</i></u></a>	watershield	Jun-Sep	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3		2010-10-27
<a href="#"><u><i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>rudis</i></u></a>	Parry's rough tarplant	May-Oct	None	None	G3T3	S3	4.2	Yes	2007-05-22
<a href="#"><u><i>Chloropyron palmatum</i></u></a>	palmate-bracted bird's-beak	May-Oct	FE	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Cirsium crassicaule</i></u></a>	slough thistle	May-Aug	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Delphinium recurvatum</i></u></a>	recurved larkspur	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2?	S2	1B.2	Yes	1988-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Eryngium racemosum</i></u></a>	Delta button-celery	(May)Jun-Oct	None	CE	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Extriplex joaquinana</i></u></a>	San Joaquin spearscale	Apr-Oct	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1988-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Hesperevax caulescens</i></u></a>	hogwallow starfish	Mar-Jun	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	Yes	2001-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i></u></a>	woolly rose-mallow	Jun-Sep	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Lasthenia ferrisiae</i></u></a>	Ferris' goldfields	Feb-May	None	None	G3	S3	4.2	Yes	2001-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Lathyrus jepsonii</i> var. <i>jepsonii</i></u></a>	Delta tule pea	May-Jul(Aug-Sep)	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i></u></a>	Sanford's arrowhead	May-Oct(Nov)	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1984-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Symphotrichum lentum</i></u></a>	Suisun Marsh aster	(Apr)May-Nov	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01
<a href="#"><u><i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i></u></a>	Wright's trichocoronis	May-Sep	None	None	G4T3	S1	2B.1		1988-01-01

<u><i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i></u>	saline clover	Apr-Jun	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	2001-01-01
<u><i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i></u>	caper-fruited tropidocarpum	Mar-Apr	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01

Showing 1 to 19 of 19 entries

**Suggested Citation:**

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2024. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9.5). Website <https://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 6 December 2024].



# United States Department of the Interior



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

In Reply Refer To:

12/06/2024 19:35:40 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0028645

Project Name: SAN JOAQUIN BE WELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

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

This species list is provided by:

**Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office**

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

(916) 414-6600

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0028645  
Project Name: SAN JOAQUIN BE WELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT  
Project Type: Commercial Development  
Project Description: SAN JOAQUIN BE WELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS PROJECT

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@37.8874083,-121.2782490335066,14z>



Counties: San Joaquin County, California

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 9 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

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

## MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Riparian Brush Rabbit <i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6189">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6189</a>	Endangered

## REPTILES

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

## AMPHIBIANS

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

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850</a>	Threatened

## CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498</a>	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246</a>	Endangered

## FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
<p>Palmate-bracted Bird's Beak <i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1616">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1616</a></p>	Endangered

## CRITICAL HABITATS

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

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

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Private Entity  
Name: Mike Trueblood  
Address: 1504 Eureka Road, Suite 310  
City: Roseville  
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