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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

September 15, 2025

Robert Schaaf
California Department of Conservation
California Geologic Energy Management Division
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MS 1803
Sacramento, CA 95814
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SUBJECT: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PERMANENT SEALING OF ORPHAN WELLS PROJECT, SCH NO. 2025080496, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CA

Dear Robert Schaaf:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reviewed the mitigated negative declaration (MND)from the California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) for the Permanent Sealing of Orphan Wells (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines[1].

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish & G. Code, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on

[1] CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law[2] of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.) or the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA; Fish & G. Code, §1900 et seq.), the Project proponent may seek related take authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Proponent: California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM)

Objective: The objective of the Project is to plug and decommission six wells as well as the removal of Project-related facilities, tanks, and above-ground pipelines. Primary Project activities include road repairs; filling the wells with cement; cutting the well casing 5 to 10 feet from the surface; backfilling sumps; removing deserted tanks, vessels, above-ground pipelines, and containers; draining and capping below-ground pipelines; and removal of any existing concrete pads.

Location: The Project is located mainly in unincorporated Los Angeles County, in the Canoga Oil Field. However, access to the well sites along El Escorpion Trail will occur in the City of Los Angeles, in El Escorpion Park.

Timeframe: The Project duration is expected to be eight weeks.

Biological Setting: The Project site is currently undeveloped except for the six oil wells and related infrastructure that are the focus of this Project. El Escorpion Trail serves as the northern border of the Project site. The Project is bounded to the north, west, and south by undeveloped land. Residential development borders the Project to the east. The Project proponent conducted a desktop analysis of the Project site, as well as a buffer area of a 5-mile radius, using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). Special-status species that have the potential to occur on site, and may be impacted by the Project, include, but are not limited to: Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*; Endangered Species Act (ESA) endangered, California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1), San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *ferdinandina*; California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Endangered, CRPR 1B.1), burrowing owl (*Athene*

[2] "Take" is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

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cunicularia; CESA Candidate Endangered), slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummarae*; CRPR 1B.2), Santa Susana tarplant (*Deinandra minthornii*; CRPR 1B.2), chaparral nolina (*Nolina cismontana*; CRPR 1B.2), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *blochmaniae*; CRPR 1B.1), Ojai navarretia (*Navarretia ojaiensis*; CRPR 1B.1), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*; California Species of Special Concern (SSC)), and California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*; SSC).

The MND included mitigation measures that required pre-disturbance biological surveys and avoidance measures for nesting birds Crotch's bumble bee, California red legged frog, burrowing owl, California gnatcatcher, San Diego woodrat, and sensitive plants and reptiles; and worker environmental awareness training.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist CalGEM in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Additional comments or other suggestions may also be included to improve the document.

COMMENT # 1: Biological Baseline Assessment

Issue: The MND Project may not accurately reflect the Project site's current biological conditions and resources and subsequent impacts.

Specific impact: The MND relies on a desktop analysis of the Project site to determine the site's current biological conditions and resources. However, this analysis may not properly represent current conditions, which may lead to incorrect assumptions about the impacts of the Project.

Why impact would occur: Depending on various factors, such as the date of the most recent site visit or the frequency of maintenance of the oil well sites, biological conditions could vary from the desktop analysis. Sensitive species and/or communities may have established themselves in the time since the most recent data was collected. Wildlife not previously observed on site may now be residents and/or use the Project site for breeding, nesting, or foraging. In addition, the MND does not provide details about the vegetation communities on site. CDFW generally considers biological field assessments for wildlife to be valid for a one-year period, and assessments for rare plants may be considered valid for a period of up to three years.

In order to properly mitigate or avoid impacts to sensitive species and/or communities, an accurate depiction of the Project site should be included. As a Trustee and Responsible Agency, CDFW should be provided with current and accurate information of the Project site to protect biological resources.

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Evidence impact would be significant: Field verification for the presence or absence of sensitive species is necessary to provide a complete biological assessment for adequate CEQA review (CEQA Guidelines, § 15003(i)).

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Recommendation #1: Biological Assessment Surveys – CalGEM should retain a qualified biologist to perform biological field surveys to account for the current state of the Project site and the inventory of biological species that may be present. The survey should be conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when sensitive species are active, or otherwise identifiable, for both plants and wildlife. Based on the survey results, the final CEQA document should propose avoidance and specific mitigation for Project impacts to special-status species. Findings from the updated general field surveys should be disclosed in the CEQA document for public review.

COMMENT # 2: <u>Impacts to Crotch's Bumble Bee</u>

Issue: Mitigation Measure BIO-4 may not provide adequate protection and avoidance of Crotch's bumble bee.

Specific impact: The Project's ground and vegetation disturbance could result in potentially significant impacts to Crotch's bumble bee including loss of foraging resources, changes in foraging behavior, burrow collapse, nest abandonment, reduced nest success, reduced health and vigor of eggs, young, and/or queens, and direct mortality.

Why impact would occur: The MND states that Crotch's bumble bee has the moderate potential to occur on the Project site. However, a focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee has not been completed to determine if Crotch's bumble bee currently occupies the area. Crotch's bumble bee is a cryptic species that may not be detected during the preconstruction surveys requited in Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (CDFW 2023). Therefore, impacts to Crotch's bumble bee may occur, even if a preconstruction survey returns negative findings, which could lead to unauthorized take under CESA. Focused surveys would assist in analyzing potential impacts to Crotch's bumble bee.

Evidence impact would be significant: The California Fish and Game Commission accepted a petition to list the Crotch's bumble bee as endangered under CESA, determining the listing "may be warranted" and advancing the species to the candidacy stage of the CESA listing process. The Project may substantially reduce and adversely modify habitat as well as reduce and potentially impair the viability of populations of Crotch's bumble bee. The Project may also reduce the number and range of the species without considering the likelihood that special status species on adjacent and nearby natural lands may rely upon the habitat that occurs on the proposed Project area. In addition, Crotch's bumble bee has a State Ranking of S1/S2. This means that the Crotch's bumble bee is considered critically imperiled or imperiled and is extremely rare (often 5 or fewer populations). Crotch's bumble bee is also listed as an invertebrate

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of conservation priority under the California Terrestrial and Vernal Pool Invertebrates of Conservation Priority[3] (CDFW 2017). Accordingly, Crotch's bumble bee meets the CEQA definition of rare, threatened, or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). Therefore, take of Crotch's bumble bee could require a mandatory finding of significance by CalGEM (CEQA Guidelines, § 1565).

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Mitigation Measure #1: Crotch's Bumble Bee Surveys – The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist with the appropriate handling permits to conduct focused surveys for Crotch's Bumble Bee. Focused surveys shall follow CDFW's Survey Conditions for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species[4] (CDFW 2023). Focused surveys shall also be conducted throughout the entire Project site and during the appropriate flying season to ensure no missed detection of Crotch's bumble bee occurs. Survey results, including negative findings, shall be submitted to CDFW prior to implementing Project ground-disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure #2: Mitigation Measure BIO-4 - CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-4 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough:

If, at the commencement of Project construction, Crotch's bumble bee is still considered a CESA candidate species or has been listed as threatened or endangered under CESA, the Project shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize, and offset Project impacts to the species:

1. A Qualified Biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for Crotch's bumble bee and nests in Project areas with suitable nesting habitat prior to initial ground-disturbing activities, such as staging and vegetation clearing. There shall be multiple surveys during the nesting season. The purpose of the surveys shall be to identify active nest colonies inside of permanent and temporary impact areas.

2. If active Crotch's bumble bee nests are observed within the Project site or within a ~~50~~ 100-foot buffer surrounding the site, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer (as determined by a Qualified Biologist) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take. The buffer shall provide at least ~~50~~ 100 feet of clearance around active nest entrances. (Note: inaccessible areas outside of the Project site can be surveyed using binoculars from the Project edge or from public roads.)

3. If establishment of a no-disturbance buffer is feasible, construction activities shall not occur within the buffer until a Qualified Biologist determines that the colony is no longer active (i.e., no Crotch's bumble bees are seen flying in or out of the

[3] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=157415&inline
[4] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213150&inline

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nest for three consecutive days, indicating the colony has completed its nesting season and the next season's queens have dispersed from the colony). Once the nest has been determined to be inactive, construction activities within the no-disturbance buffer(s) shall be allowed to resume.

4. If avoidance of a no-disturbance buffer is not feasible, the lead biologist shall consult with CDFW regarding potential encroachment into the no-disturbance buffer with other measures implemented. Work would not begin in the no-disturbance buffer without CDFW approval.

If avoidance of the nest is not feasible, the lead biologist shall consult with the CDFW regarding the potential for Project activities to result in take of the Crotch's bumble bee and shall comply with all avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation requirements set forth in any incidental take permit issued for the Project by CDFW.

COMMENT # 3: Impacts to Burrowing Owl

Issue: The Project may impact burrowing owl through ground disturbing activities such as excavation.

Specific impact: Impacts in the form of habitat loss and degradation could occur as a result of excavation of the oil well casings. The ground disturbing activities may also lead to direct mortality of burrowing owl individuals.

Why impact would occur: On October 15, 2024, the Fish and Game Commission published a Notice of Findings that designates burrowing owl as a CESA candidate species (FGC 2024). The MND omits this designation from its discussion. This, in combination with a lack of focused or field surveys, could mean that the impact analysis in the MND is inadequate. Without up-to-date focused surveys, this CESA candidate species may go undetected.

Project activities that have the potential to take burrowing owls, their nests or eggs, or destroy or degrade burrowing owl habitat include: grading, disking, cultivation, earthmoving, burrow blockage, heavy equipment compacting and crushing burrow tunnels. In addition, the following activities may have impacts to burrowing owl populations: eradication of host burrowers; changes in vegetation management (i.e. grazing); use of pesticides and rodenticides; destruction, conversion or degradation of nesting, foraging, over-wintering, or other habitats; destruction of natural burrows and burrow surrogates; and disturbance which may result in harassment of owls at occupied burrows (CDFW 2012).If Project activities overlap with the breeding season for burrowing owl, there is potential for Project activities to result in abandonment of burrows, burrow collapse, or injury/mortality of owlets. Furthermore, attempts to flush burrowing owl from the site may disturb, distress, or lead to potential take of individual burrowing owl. As a result, Mitigation Measure BIO-7 may not properly protect burrowing owl and result in unauthorized impacts to burrowing owl. To avoid unauthorized take, CalGEM should incorporate mitigation measures that prescribe

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focused surveys and coordination with CDFW to obtain appropriate take authorization if burrowing owl is identified on site.

Evidence impact may be significant: Burrowing owl is a species designated as candidate for listing as threatened or endangered pursuant to CESA (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.). Take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from the Project is prohibited, except as authorized by State law (Fish & G. Code, §§ 86, 2062, 2067, 2068, 2080, 2085; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 786.9). Additionally, take of individual western burrowing owl and their nests is defined by Fish and Game Code section 86 and prohibited by sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513.

Take is defined in Fish and Game Code section 86 as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill." Inadequate avoidance and mitigation measures will result in the Project continuing to have a substantial adverse direct and cumulative 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 CDFW.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Recommendation #2: Burrowing Owl Discussion – The MND should be revised to acknowledge that burrowing owl are designated as a CESA candidate species and afforded full protection under CESA. The MND should also provide a thorough discussion on the Project's potential direct and indirect impact on burrowing owl. If the Project may impact burrowing owl, the MND should incorporate measures to mitigate potential impacts to burrowing owl as well as habitat supporting the species. The discussion should be of a depth and scope that a CESA ITP can be issued based on the analysis provided in the MND

Mitigation Measure #3: Burrowing Owl Focused Surveys – The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for burrowing owl prior to Project activities. Focused surveys shall be conducted pursuant to CDFW's March 7, 2012, Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation[5] (CDFW 2012) or CDFW's most recent guidance. In California, the burrowing owl breeding season extends from February 1 to August 31, with some variances by geographic location and climatic conditions. Survey protocol for breeding seasonal survey states to conduct 4 survey visits: 1) at least one site visit between February 15 and April 15 and 2) a minimum of three survey visits at least three weeks apart between April 15 and July 15, with at least one visit after June 15.

Mitigation Measure #4: Mitigation Measure BIO-7 – CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-7 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with a strikethrough.

[5] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843&inline

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Measures that shall be implemented during the Project construction to avoid and/or minimize direct take of burrowing owl include:

1. Burrowing owl pre-construction surveys shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground disturbing construction. The survey area shall include the Project site and a 500-foot buffer around the Project boundary. Surveys shall follow CDFW protocol.

2. A burrow is assumed occupied if records indicate that at least one burrowing owl has been observed occupying a burrow on-site during the past three years. If active burrowing owl burrows are detected in the Project boundary or the 500-foot survey buffer, they ~~can~~ shall be avoided through implementation of a "no disturbance" buffer designated by a barricade. ~~Use of a haybale or other visual screen can help shelter the burrow from construction activities and potentially reduce buffer zones.~~

~~3. Active burrows shall be avoided during the burrowing owl breeding season (February 1 to August 31).~~

4. Determination of the appropriate method of relocation, such as eviction/passive relocation or active relocation, shall be based on the specific site conditions (e.g., distance to nearest suitable habitat and presence of burrows within that habitat) in coordination with the Wildlife Agencies. Active relocation and eviction/passive relocation requires the preservation and maintenance of suitable burrowing owl habitat determined through coordination with CDFW.

Mitigation Measure #5: Incidental Take Permit – If an occupied burrow or burrowing owl is found within the Project site, the Project proponent shall coordinate with CDFW and attain appropriate take authorization from CDFW (pursuant to Fish and Game code, § 2080 *et seq.*). The Project proponent shall comply with the mitigation measures detailed in the take authorization issued by CDFW. The Project proponent shall provide a copy of a fully executed take authorization prior to implementing Project activities with potential to impact burrowing owl.

COMMENT # 4: Impacts to Aquatic and Riparian Resources

Issue: The Project may have impacts to streams subject to Fish and Game Code, section 1600 *et. seq.*

Specific impact: The well site named "Knapp 6", as well as other areas where Project activities such as "road repair" will occur, may be within an area subject to Fish and Game Code, section 1600 *et seq.*

Why impact would occur: According to aerial imagery, an unnamed drainage occurs immediately to the west of the well site named "Knapp 6". According to Figure 1-3 of the MND, the Temporary Work Area surrounding Knapp 6 may overlap areas subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602. The same Figure depicts the other well sites

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occurring at the base of “Existing Erosion Control Devices”, which may also be subject to Fish and Game Code section 1602.

The Project description in the MND does not provide information demonstrating how the Project proponent intends to avoid impacts to the on-site drainage. Without proper avoidance measures in place, ground disturbing activities may lead to impacts to the bed, bank, or channel of the drainage. Additionally, fugitive dust and debris from Project activities may enter the drainage. CDFW believes that impacts to the on-site drainage(s) would be subject to a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Notification.

Evidence impact would be significant: The Project may impact streams and associated riparian habitats. CDFW exercises its regulatory authority (Fish and Game Code, section *et seq.*) to conserve fish and wildlife resources which include rivers, streams, or lakes and associated natural communities. Fish and Game Code, section 1602 requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify CDFW prior to beginning any activity that may do one or more of the following:

- Divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake;
- Change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake;
- Use material from any river, stream, or lake; or
- Deposit or dispose of material into any river, stream, or lake.

CDFW requires an LSA when a project activity may substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Recommendation #3: LSA Revision – The MND should be revised to provide a discussion of how impacts to the unnamed drainage will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated. Best management practices to limit any sediment or debris from entering the drainage.

Recommendation #4: LSA CEQA – CDFW’s issuance of an LSA Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by CDFW as a Responsible Agency. As a Responsible Agency, CDFW may consider the CEQA document from CalGEM for the Project. To minimize additional requirements by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the Project’s CEQA document should fully identify the Project’s potential impacts on stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA Agreement. As such, CDFW recommends CalGEM consider CDFW’s comments and revise the MND by incorporating the mitigation measures recommended in this letter into the Project’s environmental document. To compensate for an on- and off-site impacts to aquatic and riparian resources, additional mitigation conditioned in any LSA Agreement may include the following: erosion and pollution control measures, avoidance of resources, protective measures for downstream resources, on- and/or off-site habitat creation,

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enhancement, restoration, and/or protection, and management of mitigation lands in perpetuity. Please visit CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program[6] webpage for more information

Mitigation Measure #6: LSA – The Project proponent shall notify CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1602 and obtain an LSA Agreement from CDFW prior to obtaining a grading permit. The LSA Notification shall include a hydrology report to evaluate whether altering streams within the Project site may impact hydrologic activity. The hydrology report may also include a hydrological evaluation of a 100, 50, 25, 10, 5, and 2-year frequency storm event for existing and proposed conditions. The Project proponent shall comply with the mitigation measures detailed in an LSA Agreement issued by CDFW. The Project proponent shall also provide compensatory mitigation at no less than 2:1 for any impacted stream and associated natural community, or at a ratio acceptable to CDFW.

COMMENT # 5: Impacts to Rare Plants

Issue: Mitigation Measure BIO-3 may not provide adequate protection for rare plant species.

Specific impact: Project activities may directly or indirectly impact rare plants through loss of suitable habitat, habitat modification, and increased dust.

Why impact would occur: According to the MND, six non-State protected special status plant species have a moderate or higher potential to occur. All six species have a CRPR of 1B. Impacts on rare flora could be considered a significant effect on the environment. Plants with a CRPR of 1B are rare throughout their range, endemic to California, and are seriously or fairly threatened. Most of the plants that are ranked 1B have declined significantly over the last century. The additional threat rank of 0.1 indicates a species with over 80 percent of its occurrences threatened in California. The additional threat rank of 0.2 indicates a species with 20 to 80 percent of its occurrences threatened (CNPS 2025).

The Project description includes road construction, slope grading, and vegetation clearance. These activities could result in loss of population or direct mortality of rare plants. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 states that "If non-State protected special status plant species are unavoidable, up to 20 percent of a population or each discrete occurrence may be disturbed without further measures required." Consequently, the MND does not provide compensatory mitigation for the loss of rare plant species. Without compensatory mitigation or any further measures to CRPR 1B plants that are, by definition, currently threatened and declining significantly, the loss of these rare plant species have not yet been mitigated below a level of significance.

[6] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA

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Evidence impact would be significant: Impacts to CRPR 1B plant species and their habitat meet the definition of endangered, rare, or threatened species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380).

Impacts to CRPR 1B plant species and their habitat may result in a mandatory finding of significance because the Project would potentially threaten to eliminate a plant community and substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species (CEQA Guidelines, § 15065). Insufficient mitigation may result in unmitigated temporal or permanent impacts to a rare plant species. Subsequently, the Project would continue to have a substantial adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on a species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by CDFW.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Mitigation Measure #7: Mitigation Measure BIO-3 – CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-3 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough:

The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for rare plants prior to Project activities. Focused surveys shall be conducted pursuant to CDFW's March 20, 2018, Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities[7] (CDFW 2018) or CDFW's most recent guidance. Findings from the surveys shall be provided to CDFW prior to ground disturbing activities.

~~If the pre-disturbance survey determines that additional targeted plant surveys are required for the detection of sensitive plant species within the construction footprint or a 50-foot buffer, rare plant surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate season for their detection.~~ If surveys for special status plants occur in a year during which rainfall totals reach at least 80 percent of normal, survey results shall be considered valid for ~~five~~ three years. For surveys conducted in years of less-than-ideal rainfall (less than 80 percent average rainfall), results shall be valid for only one year. A survey of appropriate reference populations shall be necessary to support survey findings for the Project activity site.

If the pre-disturbance survey identifies special status plant populations, the following measures shall be implemented:

1. Any special status plant populations detected shall be fully described, well documented, and mapped via a Global Positioning Satellite device and appropriately georeferenced on Project maps. For each population occurrence detected, a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) field report and a CNPS Field Survey Form or written equivalent shall be prepared.

[7] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline

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2. If pre-construction surveys detect the presence of any State-listed plant species, the plant populations shall be protected from disturbance activities by implementing applicable impact avoidance measures consistent with CNPS's mitigation guidelines (1998 or more current). If impact avoidance measures have not been established for the species, plant populations shall be buffered from new ground disturbance activities by a minimum of 50 feet, as determined by a Qualified Biologist. A smaller buffer may be established, provided there are adequate measures such as placement of a physical barrier (e.g., construction fencing) in place to avoid the destruction of individuals, with the approval of CalGEM. The buffer zone shall be established around these areas to eliminate potential disturbance to the plants from human activity and any other potential sources of disturbance including human trampling, erosion, and dust. A Qualified Biologist shall be on-site, at minimum, during initial ground disturbing activities to ensure that sensitive plant species are not impacted.

3. If plants with a CRPR of 1B or 2B are observed in the impact area, no Project activities shall commence, and CalGEM shall coordinate with CDFW to discuss avoidance of the rare plants on site. If complete avoidance is unattainable, the Project proponent shall provide compensatory mitigation to offset the Project's impact on rare plants observed on site at no less than 2:1.~~If any non-State listed special status plants are identified that may be impacted by new ground-disturbing activities, populations shall be avoided, when possible, by a minimum 50-foot buffer zone as determined by a Qualified Biologist. If non-State protected special status plant species are unavoidable, up to 20 percent of a population or each discrete occurrence may be disturbed without further measures required. If greater than 20 percent of a population or each discrete occurrence shall be destroyed, a~~ A Rare Plant Salvage and Restoration Plan shall be submitted to CalGEM for approval. The plan shall include the following at a minimum:

    a. Relocation of individual plant(s) to an appropriate habitat area free from Project-related ground disturbance;
    b. Boundaries of non-State protected special status plant species shall be geo referenced and mapped;
    c. Topsoil removed during site clearing where non-State protected special status plant species are located shall be spread onto existing disturbed areas within the same geographic area and in the same soil type;
    d. Post-construction monitoring to confirm continued site occupancy by special status plants affected by ground disturbance; and
    e. Adaptive management or other contingency measures; and/or weed management

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mitigation Measure BIO-9. CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-9 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough:

A pre-disturbance nesting bird survey for active bird nests shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist no more than ~~10~~ 3 days prior to the start of any ~~ground disturbances~~ Project activities that shall take place during the bird nesting season (February 1 through August 31). Surveys shall follow USFWS and CDFW guidance and/or protocols, as applicable. If ground-disturbing activities were initiated prior to, and continue into, the bird nesting season without a break in activity of more than one week, no nesting bird survey is necessary. If no active nests or nesting birds are identified during the pre-disturbance survey, then ground-disturbing activities may proceed, and no further mitigation measures shall be required for nesting birds.

If active nests are identified, the following shall be included as part of the pre-disturbance active bird nest survey results report:

Active bird nest(s) shall be avoided by establishing a minimum 250-foot non-disturbance buffer around it, a minimum 500-foot non-disturbance buffer around any active non-listed raptor nest(s) or any federal or State-listed passerine species, or a minimum 0.5-mile non-disturbance buffer around any federal or State-listed raptor nest(s) until the breeding season has ended. Non-disturbance buffers can be removed when a Qualified Biologist has determined that the birds have fledged, are no longer reliant on the nest or parental care for survival and adult birds are no longer occupying the nest, or the nest is no longer active (e.g., failed). Reduced non-disturbance buffers may be implemented if a Qualified Biologist concludes that work within the buffer area shall not be likely to cause nest avoidance or abandonment (e.g., when the disturbance area is concealed from a nest site by topography, when work activities shall have a limited duration within the buffer area, or when the species has been known to tolerate higher levels of disturbance). If reduced non-disturbance buffers are implemented, a Qualified Biologist shall monitor the active nest(s) before and during construction to establish a baseline for nest behavior and determine whether construction activities are adversely affecting the nest. The pre-disturbance monitoring of the nest site shall occur on at least two occasions of at least one hour each during anticipated work hours prior to construction to establish a behavioral baseline. The monitoring during construction shall be within the buffer area to detect behavioral changes of the birds because of the Project (e.g., adults flushed off the nest) that could lead to nest abandonment. If behavioral changes are observed, the work causing that change shall cease within the buffer area until the nest has fledged or is determined by the Qualified Biologist to no longer be active. The Qualified Biologist shall have the authority to halt or redirect construction activities to protect nesting birds from Project activities. Any reduction of buffer areas for State or federal listed species during the nesting season must be authorized by CDFW and/or USFWS.

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Restoration. CDFW recommends the Project's environmental document be revised include specific details about how the Project proponent plans to restore the Project site to pre-Project conditions (or greater) after decommissioning activities are completed. CDFW recommends the Project proponent use only native species found in vegetation communities that naturally occur within or adjacent to the Project site. The Project proponent should not plant, see, or otherwise introduce non-native, invasive plant species, particularly those listed as "moderate" or "high" by the California Invasive Plant Council. These species are documented to have substantial and severe ecological impacts on physical processes, vegetation structure, and plant and animal communities. CDFW also recommends the MND be revised to include the restoration plant palette and species list.

Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Plan. CDFW recommends the Project's environmental document include mitigation measures recommended in this letter. CDFW has provided comments via a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan to assist in the development of feasible, specific, detailed (i.e., responsible party, timing, specific actions, location), and fully enforceable mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines, § 15097; Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6). The Lead Agency is welcome to coordinate with CDFW to further review and refine the Project's mitigation measures. Per Public Resources Code section 21081.6(a)(1), CDFW has provided a summary of our suggested mitigation measures and recommendations in the form of an attached Draft Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (Attachment A).

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). The CNDDB website[8] provides direction regarding the types of information that should be reported and allows on-line submittal of field survey forms.

In addition, information on special status native plant populations and sensitive natural communities, should be submitted to CDFW's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program using the Combined Rapid Assessment and Relevé Form[9].

CalGEM should ensure data collected for the preparation of the MND is properly submitted.

[8] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB
[9] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities/Submit

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FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of environmental document filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the environmental document filing fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND to assist CalGEM in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW requests an opportunity to review and comment on any response that the CalGEM has to our comments and to receive notification of any forthcoming hearing date(s) for the Project (CEQA Guidelines, § 15073(e)).

Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Riley Scott[10], Environmental Scientist.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
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Victoria Tang
Environmental Program Manager
South Coast Region

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Victoria Tang, Environmental Program Manager
Steve Gibson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Riley Scott, Environmental Scientist
Jenny Ludovissy, Staff Services Analyst

Office of Planning and Research
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REFERENCES

[CDFW] California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2012. *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation*. Available from: https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843&inline

[10] Phone: 858-761-8020; Email: Riley.Scott@wildlife.ca.gov

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[CDFW] California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2023. *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species*. Available at: https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213150&inline

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ATTACHMENT A: DRAFT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

CDFW provides the following language to be incorporated into the MMRP for the Project.

Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
Mitigation Measure #1: Crotch's Bumble Bee Surveys – The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist with the appropriate handling permits to conduct focused surveys for Crotch's Bumble Bee. Focused surveys shall follow CDFW's Survey Conditions for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species[11] (CDFW 2023) Focused surveys shall also be conducted throughout the entire Project site and during the appropriate flying season to ensure no missed detection of Crotch's bumble bee occurs. Survey results, including negative findings, shall be submitted to CDFW prior to implementing Project ground-disturbing activities.	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent
Mitigation Measure #2: Mitigation Measure BIO-4 - CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-4 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough: If, at the commencement of Project construction, Crotch's bumble bee is still considered a CESA candidate species or has been listed as threatened or endangered under CESA, the Project shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize, and offset Project impacts to the species: 1. A Qualified Biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for Crotch's bumble bee and nests in Project areas with suitable nesting habitat prior to initial ground-disturbing activities, such as staging and vegetation clearing. There shall be multiple surveys during the nesting	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent

[11] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213150&inline

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
season. The purpose of the surveys shall be to identify active nest colonies inside of permanent and temporary impact areas. 2. If active Crotch's bumble bee nests are observed within the Project site or within a ~~50~~100-foot buffer surrounding the site, an appropriate no-disturbance buffer (as determined by a Qualified Biologist) shall be established around the nest to reduce the risk of disturbance or accidental take. The buffer shall provide at least ~~50~~ 100 feet of clearance around active nest entrances. (Note: inaccessible areas outside of the Project site can be surveyed using binoculars from the Project edge or from public roads.) 3. If establishment of a no-disturbance buffer is feasible, construction activities shall not occur within the buffer until a Qualified Biologist determines that the colony is no longer active (i.e., no Crotch's bumble bees are seen flying in or out of the nest for three consecutive days, indicating the colony has completed its nesting season and the next season's queens have dispersed from the colony). Once the nest has been determined to be inactive, construction activities within the no-disturbance buffer(s) shall be allowed to resume. 4. If avoidance of a no-disturbance buffer is not feasible, the lead biologist shall consult with CDFW regarding potential encroachment into the no-disturbance buffer with other measures implemented. Work would not begin in the no-disturbance buffer without CDFW approval. If avoidance of the nest is not feasible, the lead biologist shall consult with the CDFW regarding the potential for Project activities to result in take of the Crotch's bumble bee		

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
and shall comply with all avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation requirements set forth in any incidental take permit issued for the Project by CDFW.		
Mitigation Measure #3: Burrowing Owl Focused Surveys – The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for burrowing owl prior to Project activities. Focused surveys shall be conducted pursuant to CDFW's March 7, 2012, Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation[12] (CDFW 2012) or CDFW's most recent guidance. In California, the burrowing owl breeding season extends from February 1 to August 31, with some variances by geographic location and climatic conditions. Survey protocol for breeding seasonal survey states to conduct 4 survey visits: 1) at least one site visit between February 15 and April 15 and 2) a minimum of three survey visits at least three weeks apart between April 15 and July 15, with at least one visit after June 15.	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent
Mitigation Measure #4: Mitigation Measure BIO-7 – CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-7 by removing the language with a strikethrough. Measures that shall be implemented during the Project construction to avoid and/or minimize direct take of burrowing owl include: 1. Burrowing owl pre-construction surveys shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground disturbing construction. The survey area shall include the Project site and a 500-foot buffer around the Project boundary. Surveys shall follow CDFW protocol. 2. A burrow is assumed occupied if records indicate that at least one burrowing owl has been observed occupying a burrow on-site during the past three years. If	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent

[12] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843&inline

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Mitigation Measure	**Timing**	**Responsible Party**
active burrowing owl burrows are detected in the Project boundary or the 500-foot survey buffer, they ~~can~~ shall be avoided through implementation of a "no disturbance" buffer designated by a barricade. ~~Use of a haybale or other visual screen can help shelter the burrow from construction activities and potentially reduce buffer zones.~~ ~~3. Active burrows shall be avoided during the burrowing owl breeding season (February 1 to August 31).~~ 4. Determination of the appropriate method of relocation, such as eviction/passive relocation or active relocation, shall be based on the specific site conditions (e.g., distance to nearest suitable habitat and presence of burrows within that habitat) in coordination with the Wildlife Agencies. Active relocation and eviction/passive relocation requires the preservation and maintenance of suitable burrowing owl habitat determined through coordination with CDFW.		
Mitigation Measure #5: Incidental Take Permit – If an occupied burrow or burrowing owl is found within the Project site, the Project proponent shall coordinate with CDFW and attain appropriate take authorization from CDFW (pursuant to Fish and Game code, § 2080 *et seq.*). The Project proponent shall comply with the mitigation measures detailed in the take authorization issued by CDFW. The Project proponent shall provide a copy of a fully executed take authorization prior to implementing Project activities with potential to impact burrowing owl.	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent
Mitigation Measure #6: LSA – The Project proponent shall notify CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1602 and obtain an LSA Agreement from CDFW prior to obtaining a grading permit. The LSA Notification shall include a hydrology report to evaluate whether altering streams within the Project site may impact hydrologic activity. The hydrology report may also include a hydrological evaluation of a 100, 50,	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent

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Mitigation Measure	**Timing**	**Responsible Party**
25, 10, 5, and 2-year frequency storm event for existing and proposed conditions. The Project proponent shall comply with the mitigation measures detailed in an LSA Agreement issued by CDFW. The Project proponent shall also provide compensatory mitigation at no less than 2:1 for any impacted stream and associated natural community, or at a ratio acceptable to CDFW.		
Mitigation Measure #7: Mitigation Measure BIO-3 – CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-3 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough: The Project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for rare plants prior to Project activities. Focused surveys shall be conducted pursuant to CDFW's March 20, 2018, Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities[13] (CDFW 2018) or CDFW's most recent guidance. Findings from the surveys shall be provided to CDFW prior to ground disturbing activities. ~~If the pre-disturbance survey determines that additional targeted plant surveys are required for the detection of sensitive plant species within the construction footprint or a 50-foot buffer, rare plant surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate season for their detection.~~ If surveys for special status plants occur in a year during which rainfall totals reach at least 80 percent of normal, survey results shall be considered valid for ~~five~~ three years. For surveys conducted in years of less-than-ideal rainfall (less than 80 percent average rainfall), results shall be valid for only one year. A survey of appropriate reference populations shall be necessary to support survey findings for the Project activity site.	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent

[13] https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline

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Mitigation Measure	**Timing**	**Responsible Party**
If the pre-disturbance survey identifies special status plant populations, the following measures shall be implemented: 5. Any special status plant populations detected shall be fully described, well documented, and mapped via a Global Positioning Satellite device and appropriately georeferenced on Project maps. For each population occurrence detected, a California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) field report and a CNPS Field Survey Form or written equivalent shall be prepared. 6. If pre-construction surveys detect the presence of any State-listed plant species, the plant populations shall be protected from disturbance activities by implementing applicable impact avoidance measures consistent with CNPS's mitigation guidelines (1998 or more current). If impact avoidance measures have not been established for the species, plant populations shall be buffered from new ground disturbance activities by a minimum of 50 feet, as determined by a Qualified Biologist. A smaller buffer may be established, provided there are adequate measures such as placement of a physical barrier (e.g., construction fencing) in place to avoid the destruction of individuals, with the approval of CalGEM. The buffer zone shall be established around these areas to eliminate potential disturbance to the plants from human activity and any other potential sources of disturbance including human trampling, erosion, and dust. A Qualified Biologist shall be on-site, at minimum, during initial ground disturbing activities to ensure that sensitive plant species are not impacted.		

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
7. If plants with a CRPR of 1B or 2B are observed in the impact area, no Project activities shall commence, and CalGEM shall coordinate with CDFW to discuss avoidance of the rare plants on site. If complete avoidance is unattainable, the Project proponent shall provide compensatory mitigation to offset the Project's impact on rare plants observed on site at no less than 2:1.~~If any non-State listed special status plants are identified that may be impacted by new ground-disturbing activities, populations shall be avoided, when possible, by a minimum 50-foot buffer zone as determined by a Qualified Biologist. If non-State protected special status plant species are unavoidable, up to 20 percent of a population or each discrete occurrence may be disturbed without further measures required. If greater than 20 percent of a population or each discrete occurrence shall be destroyed, a~~ A Rare Plant Salvage and Restoration Plan shall be submitted to CalGEM for approval. The plan shall include the following at a minimum: a. Relocation of individual plant(s) to an appropriate habitat area free from Project-related ground disturbance; b. Boundaries of non-State protected special status plant species shall be geo referenced and mapped; c. Topsoil removed during site clearing where non-State protected special status plant species are located shall be spread onto existing disturbed areas within the same geographic area and in the same soil type; d. Post-construction monitoring to confirm continued site occupancy by special status plants affected by ground disturbance; and		

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Mitigation Measure	**Timing**	**Responsible Party**
e. Adaptive management or other contingency measures; and/or weed management		
Mitigation Measure BIO-9. CDFW recommends CalGEM revise Mitigation Measure BIO-9 by incorporating the underlined language and removing the language with strikethrough: A pre-disturbance nesting bird survey for active bird nests shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist no more than ~~10~~ 3 days prior to the start of any ~~ground disturbances~~ Project activities that shall take place during the bird nesting season (February 1 through August 31). Surveys shall follow USFWS and CDFW guidance and/or protocols, as applicable. If ground-disturbing activities were initiated prior to, and continue into, the bird nesting season without a break in activity of more than one week, no nesting bird survey is necessary. If no active nests or nesting birds are identified during the pre-disturbance survey, then ground-disturbing activities may proceed, and no further mitigation measures shall be required for nesting birds. If active nests are identified, the following shall be included as part of the pre-disturbance active bird nest survey results report: Active bird nest(s) shall be avoided by establishing a minimum 250-foot non-disturbance buffer around it, a minimum 500-foot non-disturbance buffer around any active non-listed raptor nest(s) or any federal or State-listed passerine species, or a minimum 0.5-mile non-disturbance buffer around any federal or State-listed raptor nest(s) until the breeding season has ended. Non-disturbance buffers can be removed when a Qualified Biologist has determined that the birds have fledged, are no longer reliant on the nest or parental care for survival and adult birds are no longer occupying the nest, or the nest is no longer active (e.g., failed). Reduced non-disturbance buffers	Prior to Project Initiation	Project Proponent

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
may be implemented if a Qualified Biologist concludes that work within the buffer area shall not be likely to cause nest avoidance or abandonment (e.g., when the disturbance area is concealed from a nest site by topography, when work activities shall have a limited duration within the buffer area, or when the species has been known to tolerate higher levels of disturbance). If reduced non-disturbance buffers are implemented, a Qualified Biologist shall monitor the active nest(s) before and during construction to establish a baseline for nest behavior and determine whether construction activities are adversely affecting the nest. The pre-disturbance monitoring of the nest site shall occur on at least two occasions of at least one hour each during anticipated work hours prior to construction to establish a behavioral baseline. The monitoring during construction shall be within the buffer area to detect behavioral changes of the birds because of the Project (e.g., adults flushed off the nest) that could lead to nest abandonment. If behavioral changes are observed, the work causing that change shall cease within the buffer area until the nest has fledged or is determined by the Qualified Biologist to no longer be active. The Qualified Biologist shall have the authority to halt or redirect construction activities to protect nesting birds from Project activities. Any reduction of buffer areas for State or federal listed species during the nesting season must be authorized by CDFW and/or USFWS.		
Recommendation #1: Biological Assessment Surveys –CDFW strongly recommends CalGEM retain a qualified biologist to perform biological field surveys to account for the current state of the Project site and the inventory of biological species that may be present. The survey should be conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when sensitive species are active, or otherwise identifiable, for both plants and wildlife. Based on the survey results, the final CEQA document should propose avoidance and specific mitigation for Project impacts to special-status species. Findings from the updated general field surveys should be disclosed in the CEQA document for public review	Prior to Final CEQA Document	Lead Agency

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
Recommendation #2: Burrowing Owl Discussion – The MND should be revised to acknowledge that burrowing owl are designated as a CESA candidate species and afforded full protection under CESA. The MND should also provide a thorough discussion on the Project's potential direct and indirect impact on burrowing owl. If the Project may impact burrowing owl, the MND should incorporate measures to mitigate potential impacts to burrowing owl as well as habitat supporting the species. The discussion should be of a depth and scope that a CESA ITP can be issued based on the analysis provided in the MND	Prior to Final CEQA Document	Lead Agency
Recommendation #3: LSA Revision – The MND should be revised to provide a discussion of how impacts to the unnamed drainage will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated. Best management practices to limit any sediment or debris from entering the drainage	Prior to Final CEQA Document	Lead Agency
Recommendation #4: LSA CEQA – CDFW's issuance of an LSA Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by CDFW as a Responsible Agency. As a Responsible Agency, CDFW may consider the CEQA document from CalGEM for the Project. To minimize additional requirements by CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 *et seq.* and/or under CEQA, the Project's CEQA document should fully identify the Project's potential impacts on stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA Agreement. As such, CDFW recommends CalGEM consider CDFW's comments and revise the MND by incorporating the mitigation measures recommended in this letter into the Project's environmental document. To compensate for an on- and off-site impacts to aquatic and riparian resources, additional mitigation conditioned in any LSA Agreement may include the following: erosion and pollution control measures, avoidance of resources, protective measures for downstream resources, on- and/or off-site habitat creation, enhancement, restoration, and/or protection, and management of mitigation lands in	Prior to Final CEQA Document	Lead Agency

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Mitigation Measure	Timing	Responsible Party
perpetuity. Please visit CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program[14] webpage for more information		
Restoration. CDFW recommends the Project's environmental document be revised include specific details about how the Project proponent plans to restore the Project site to pre-Project conditions (or greater) after decommissioning activities are completed. CDFW recommends the Project proponent use only native species found in vegetation communities that naturally occur within or adjacent to the Project site. The Project proponent should not plant, see, or otherwise introduce non-native, invasive plant species, particularly those listed as "moderate" or "high" by the California Invasive Plant Council. These species are documented to have substantial and sever ecological impacts on physical processes, vegetation structure, and plant and animal communities. CDFW also recommends the MND be revised to include the restoration plant palette and species list.	Prior to Final CEQA Document	Lead Agency

[14] https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Environmental-Review/LSA