

MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

YOKOHL CREEK RECHARGE PROJECT

EXETER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Yokohl Creek Recharge Project (Project) consists of constructing a new concrete check structure in Yokohl Creek to increase the recharge capacity of the reach. The Proposed Project also includes a discharge structure along Yokohl Creek near Road 220 that will enable the Exeter Irrigation District to deliver Friant Division, CVP contract surface water to the creek for recharge purposes.

The recharge structure improvements are to be constructed within the streambank and channel of Yokohl Creek. Easements and permits will be required to be obtained to accommodate construction, operation and maintenance of the Project improvements.

A Biological Evaluation of the Project area was completed on May 5, 2025, that established the need for mitigation measures to minimize construction related impacts to the biological resources of the area.

NESTING BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

Nesting birds, their eggs and their nests could potentially inhabit the riparian and ruderal lands including the bridge at Road 220, orchards and lands and could potentially be negatively impacted by construction of the Project unless preventive measures are incorporated into the Project design. No nesting birds or nests were observed on the Project site during the conducted reconnaissance survey.

To protect and preserve nesting birds, including the tricolored blackbird, and their nests, to avoid any impacts to them and their nests and to meet CDFW and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requirements, the following impact avoidance preventive measures are incorporated into the Project:

- NB #1. Construction Timing. If feasible, the Project will be constructed outside of the avian nesting season, typically defined as February 1 to August 31.
- NB #2. Preconstruction Surveys. If Project construction occurs between the period of February 1 and August 31, preconstruction (one-day) surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for nesting birds on the Project site within seven (7) days prior to any construction activity. The survey area will

encompass the work area and surrounding lands with 500 feet for raptors, 300 feet for tricolored blackbirds, and 250 feet for other nesting birds. Results of any such preconstruction survey shall be prepared and transmitted to the District prior to initiation of any construction activities; and

- NB #3. Avoidance of Active Nests. If any active nests are observed within or near a construction site, a biologist will establish a suitable construction free buffer around the nest. A buffer will be established on the ground with flagging or fencing. The buffer distance will be determined based on species biology site-specific conditions, and the level of project-related disturbance that is anticipated near the nest(s) in question. The buffer will be maintained until the biologist determines that the young birds have fledged and are capable of foraging independently.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

The Biological Evaluation established that the Swainson's Hawk could nest in the vicinity of and forage within the Project area. Suitable nesting sites within the Project area do not exist, but can be found on surrounding lands. The possibility exists that construction activities may affect nesting Swainson's Hawks. To protect the Swainson's Hawk from construction-related disturbances, the following impact avoidance preventative measures are incorporated into the Project:

- SH#1. Construction Timing. If feasible, Project construction will occur entirely outside the Swainson's Hawk nesting season, typically defined as February 1 through August 31.
- SH #2. Preconstruction Surveys. If Project construction occurs between the period of February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson's Hawk nesting on and within ¼ mile of the Project site. Any such pre-construction survey will be conducted within (7) days prior to the start of construction activities; and
- SH #3. Establishment of Buffer Zone. Upon discovery of an active nest, the biologist will identify a suitable disturbance-free buffer zone around any such nest. The buffer zone will be established with flagging, fencing or other visible means. The buffer zone will be maintained until a biologist establishes that the young birds have fledged and are capable of foraging independently.