

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 between the point of introduction of federal contract water into Yokohl Creek and the new structure. The Proposed Project also includes a discharge pipeline into Yokohl Creek near Road 220 that will enable the Exeter Irrigation District to deliver Friant Division, CVP contract waters into the Creek section for recharge purposes.

The recharge structure improvements are to be constructed within the bed and banks of Yokohl Creek. Easements and permits will be required to be obtained to accommodate construction, operation and maintenance of 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. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided recommendations in correspondence dated February 12, 2026, for additional mitigation measures based on its review of the Initial Study for the Project.

NESTING BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

Nesting birds, their eggs and their nests could potentially inhabit the riparian and non-native grasslands, including the bridge at Road 220 species inhabiting or utilizing adjacent, orchards and lands could potentially be negatively impacted by construction of Project features 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 loggerhead shrike and their nests, to avoid any impacts to them and their nests during construction and to meet CDFW and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requirements, the following impact avoidance preventive measures have been 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 of each year;

- 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 within 500 feet for raptors and 250 feet for other nesting birds, including the loggerhead shrike. 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(s). 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 be delayed to occur entirely outside the Swainson's Hawk nesting season, typically defined as February 1 through August 31 of each year;
- SH #2. Focused Preconstruction Swainson's Hawk Surveys. If Project construction occurs between the period of March 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for Swainson's Hawk nesting on and within ½ mile of the Project site. A qualified biologist will conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's Hawk using the survey methods developed by the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SWHA TAC 2000) prior to Project construction. The SWHA TAC survey protocol includes early season surveys to assist in implementing necessary avoidance and minimization measures and in identifying active nest sites prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities. If ground-disturbing activities are to take place during the nesting season of March 1 through August 31, additional pre-activity surveys for active nests will be

conducted by a qualified biologist no more than ten (10) days prior to the start of Project construction activities;

- SH #3. Establishment of Buffer Zone. If Project-specific activities are to take place during the Swainson's Hawk nesting season (i.e. February 1 through August 31), and active Swainson's Hawk nests are present, a minimum no-disturbance buffer of ½-mile will be delineated around active nests until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. These measures are to prevent nest abandonment and other take of Swainson's Hawk as a result of Project activities; and
- SH #4. Take Authorizations. In the event an active Swainson's Hawk nest is detected and maintaining a ½-mile buffer is not feasible, consultation with CDFW will be conducted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid the take of Swainson's Hawk. If a take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b), will be completed to comply with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).