



CITY OF ATASCADERO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Notice of Intent to Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration

APPLICATION	DEV26-0043	Environmental Document No.	2026-0001
PROJECT TITLE	Atascadero Creek Lake Fill Pipeline Repair Project		
APPLICANT NAME & PHONE NUMBER	City of Atascadero	(805) 461-5035	planning@atascadero.org
PROJECT ADDRESS:	9930 Carmelita Ave, Atascadero, CA 93422	APN:	055-161-003
STAFF CONTACT:	Erick Gomez, Associate Planner	(805) 470-3436	egomez@atascadero.org
MAILING ADDRESS:	6500 Palma Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Atascadero owns a pipeline that carries water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. Approximately 350 linear feet of that pipeline (beginning at the inlet) have degraded, become impacted with sediment, and require repair for the pipeline to function. The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350-foot segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation to remove the existing pipe and removal of riparian vegetation adjacent to and above the existing pipeline.

LEAD AGENCY: City of Atascadero
Community Development Department
6500 Palma Avenue
Atascadero, CA 93422

DOCUMENT AVAILABLE ONLINE: <http://www.atascadero.org/environmentaldocs>

STATE CLEARING HOUSE REVIEW: ☒ Yes ☐ No

REVIEW PERIOD BEGINS: July 2, 2026 **REVIEW PERIOD ENDS:** August 1, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED: ☒ No ☐ Yes

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of Atascadero is releasing a draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project for review and comment to all effected agencies, organizations, and interested parties. Reviewers should focus on the content and accuracy of the report and the potential impacts upon the environment. The notice for this project is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Persons responding to this notice are urged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments should be delivered to the City (lead agency) no later than 5pm on the date listed as "review period ends". Submittal of written comments via email is also accepted and should be directed to the Staff contact at the above email address. This document may be viewed by visiting the Community Development Department, listed under the lead agency address, or accessed via the City's website.



CITY OF ATASCADERO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

APPLICATION DEV26-0043 **Environmental Document No.** 2026-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Atascadero Creek Lake Fill Pipeline Repairs Project

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Hazards / Hazardous Materials	☐ Recreation
☐ Agricultural Resources	☒ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Transportation / Traffic
☒ Air Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities / Service Systems
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Wildfire
☐ Energy	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐ Geology and Soils		
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Public Services	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Community Development Director finds that:

- ☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Erick Gomez

Prepared by (Print)

Signature

Date

Kelly Gleason

Reviewed by (Print)

Signature

Date



PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The City of Atascadero's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes Staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surrounding and a detailed review of the information on file for the proposed project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geological information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal service, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as part of this initial study. The City of Atascadero uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies, or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the Community Development Department, 6500 Palma Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422 or call (805) 461-5000.

A. PROPOSED PROJECT

Description: The City of Atascadero owns a pipeline that carries water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. Approximately 350 linear feet of that pipeline (beginning at the inlet) have degraded, become impacted with sediment, and require repair for the pipeline to function. The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350-foot segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation to remove the existing pipe and removal of riparian vegetation adjacent to and above the existing pipeline. This scope of work shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Project."

Assessor parcel number(s): 055-161-042 and adjacent Right of Way

Latitude: 35°27'25.9"N

Longitude: 120°41'17.2"W

Other public agencies whose approval is required: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Army Corps of Engineers, CalTrans

B. EXISTING SETTING

Land use designation: Open Space (OS), State Highway Right-of-Way

Zoning district: Open Space (OS), State Highway Right-of-Way

Area of Disturbance: Approximately 9,000 SF

Topography: Blue-line Creek; Moderate to Steeply Sloping

Vegetation: Riparian

Existing use: Trail

Surrounding land use: Large-lot rural residential neighborhood and open space

Surrounding zoning: See below

North:	South:	East:	West:
RS (Residential suburban)	RS	Open Space (OS)	OS

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the initial study process, there were no significant impacts identified. The initial study contains analysis in determining impact significance level.





CITY OF ATASCADERO INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. AESTHETICS – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on an adopted scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING:

The project site is located below the CA Highway 41 Bridge over Atascadero Creek and within the Three Bridges Oak Preserve which includes the parking lot and trailhead that borders Atascadero Creek. The existing segment of the lake fill pipeline that will be replaced is a subterranean pipeline with a visible intake structure and diversion box at the southern and northern extent of project limits. The pipeline runs along Atascadero Creek and is adjacent to a dirt hiking trail that provides access to the Three Bridges Oak Preserve. The properties involved are an Open Space zone parcel currently used as the trailhead parking lot and the state highway right-way.

The City of Atascadero General Plan Policy 6.1 identifies creeks and riparian corridors as scenic lands and requires protection of natural features. The City Zoning Code restricts most construction or development in these within watercourse and wetland adjacent areas and limits disturbance to a few permissible uses and including public utilities, underground utilities, and repairs to existing permitted structures

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structure and diversion box. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation to remove and



replace the existing pipeline and removal of six Red willow trees and require trimming of an additional seven red willows and three arroyo willows. These trees are not identified in the City Native Tree Ordinance but contribute to the riparian habitat. Impacts to the riparian corridor are further discussed in the Biological Resources section of this initial study. Following project completion, the site will be restored to existing contours and stabilized, including required replanting of removed riparian vegetation and rehabilitation of the drainage channel.

AES Impact-1: The Project site is within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor. The proposed pipeline replacement and repairs will be primarily underground, and the site will be restored to its existing conditions following project completion, including required restoration and replanting of affected riparian vegetation. Project impacts to scenic resources and the visual character of the site will **be less than significant** because proposed pipeline will be replaced in-kind and underground and the site will be restored to its existing condition after construction.

2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING:

The Project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through an under pass and within Atascadero Creek. The surrounding properties are zoned Open Space, Recreation, and Rural Suburban.



The City's Open Space zone is intended to cover areas with environmentally sensitive natural or cultural resources and generally is intended to remain free of structures but may be developed with low intensity recreational improvements. Utility facilities are allowed with applicable environmental review when located within a creek channel.

The California State Department of Conservation identifies, categorizes, and helps preserve important farmland. Those areas that fall under the categories of "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," or "Unique Farmland" may be eligible to receive state funding or take advantage of incentive programs for the if preservation. The Subject Property is categorized as "Grazing Land" and "Other Land" by the California Department of Conservation. The Subject Property is additionally not Forest Land or Timberland as defined by State Public Resources Code, or timberland zoned Timberland Production, as defined by State Government Code.

The County of San Luis Obispo administers land conservation contracts under the Williamson Act. The subject property is not under a Williamson Act contract.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation.

No impacts will occur to agricultural or forest resources because no such resources exist on site and the site is not primarily designated or zoned agricultural or forestry uses.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

3. AIR QUALITY – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: All new construction and land uses have impacts on local air quality that vary in extent depending on construction practices, land use, size, and vehicle trip generation. Poor air quality can have adverse effects on public health including increases in cardiorespiratory diseases (World Health Organization, 2018). The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps regional agencies monitor and regulate air quality by identifying and classifying target air pollutants. The City of Atascadero and the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) work to create policies and programs to attain and maintain health-based air quality standards. According to SLOAPCD, San Luis Obispo County is at nonattainment status for ozone (O₂) based on State and Federal Standards and respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀) based on State standards.

SLOAPCD assists in the regulation of local air quality standards by administering the 2001 Clean Air Plan (SLO APCD, 2001); implementing and enforcing the Rules and Regulations of the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; and development of documents such as the *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (SLO APCD, 2023) which provides thresholds of significance for evaluation and analysis of air quality impacts from local development projects. Notable among their rules are *Rule 401 Visible Pollutants* and *Rule 402 Nuisance* which, in combination with local and state sedimentation and erosion control requirements, allow for the regulation and enforcement of dust and debris from construction sites.

The *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (SLO County APCD, 2023) provides the following tables with thresholds of significance for construction operations and operational emissions from any new project.



Construction Operations Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Threshold ⁽¹⁾		
	Daily	Quarterly Tier 1	Quarterly Tier 2
ROG + NO _x (combined)	137 lbs	2.5 tons	6.3 tons
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	7 lbs	0.13 tons	0.32 tons
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust ⁽²⁾		2.5 tons	
Greenhouse Gases (CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, HFC, CFC, F6S)	Amortized and Combined with Operational Emissions (See Below)		

1. Daily and quarterly emission thresholds are based on the California Health & Safety Code and the CARB Carl Moyer Guidelines.

2. Any project with a grading area greater than 4.0 acres of worked area can exceed the 2.5 ton PM₁₀ quarterly threshold.

Operational Thresholds of Significance

Pollutant	Threshold ⁽¹⁾	
	Daily	Annual
Ozone Precursors (ROG + NO _x) ⁽²⁾	25 lbs/day	25 tons/year
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) ⁽²⁾	1.25 lbs/day	
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust	25 lbs/day	25 tons/year
CO	550 lbs/day	
Greenhouse Gases (CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, HFC, CFC, F6S)	See GHG threshold guidance in Section 3.5.6.	

1. Daily and annual emission thresholds are based on the California Health & Safety Code Division 26, Part 3, Chapter 10, Section 40918 and the CARB Carl Moyer Guidelines for DPM.

2. CalEEMod – use winter operational emission data to compare to operational thresholds.

GHGs emissions are discussed in the GHG Emissions section of this document.

The Project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through an under pass and within Atascadero Creek. The surrounding properties are zoned Open Space, Recreation, and Rural Suburban. The City's Open Space zone is intended to cover areas with environmentally sensitive natural or cultural resources and generally is intended to remain free of structures but may be developed with low intensity recreational improvements. Utility facilities are allowed with applicable environmental review when located within a creek channel. The nearest residential use is a single-family residence located approximately 250' from the project site. There are no schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, or hospitals within 500' of the project.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the



pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation. Any necessary stockpiles be covered and surrounded with a linear sediment barrier. Additional best management practices shall be utilized throughout the project, including non-monofilament fiber rolls (straw wattles), and hydroseeding with a native erosion control seed mix will be applied to all exposed slopes for immediate slope stabilization.

AQ Impact-1: The project does not conflict with the Clean Air Plan. There is **no impact** due to Project incompatibilities with the SLO County Clean Air Plan (2003).

AQ Impact-2: The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) reports that the county is at nonattainment for Ozone (O₃) emissions. Replacement of the existing lake-fill pipeline and associated facilities requires only 96 cubic yards of grading associated with limited trenching and import. The work not anticipated to generate emissions during construction or operation that would significantly exceed the above thresholds or otherwise contribute to non-attainment pollutant levels (SLO County APCD, 2023). Therefore, this impact is **less than significant**.

AQ Impact-3: The Project construction will occur within 1,000 ft of sensitive receptors, including the adjacent trail and a single-family residence that could be exposed to temporary dust and emissions during construction. ***This impact requires mitigation.***

AQ Impact-4: An existing recreational trail is located adjacent to the construction zone. While the SLO APCD CEQA Handbook categorizes parks and recreational facilities as sensitive receptors, users of the trail are transient and mobile rather than stationary. Construction emissions will be temporary, intermittent, and tracking along a 400-foot alignment, meaning any individual trail user would only interact with the vicinity of construction for a matter of minutes as they pass by and not have long term exposure to any emissions from construction. Furthermore, potential short-term nuisance impacts (such as fugitive dust) to trail users will be minimized to a less-than-significant level through mandatory compliance with SLO APCD Rule 401 (Visible Emissions) and Rule 402 (Nuisance), which require standard dust control measures. Since the project does not expose transient trail uses to substantial pollutant concentration, then the ***impact is less than significant***.

AQ Impact-4: No impact is anticipated from odors associated with the pipeline replacement proposed by the Project.

MITIGATION / CONCLUSION:

AQ-1: The Project shall comply with the following SLO APCD Fugitive *Dust Mitigation Measures* for projects with nearby sensitive receptors and/or earthwork exceeding 4-acres to minimize nuisance impacts and to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions:

- All dirt stockpile areas and exposed areas should be sprayed daily as needed.
- Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
- Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;



- All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD. Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.

AQ-2: No idling of vehicles or diesel equipment shall be allowed during construction.

Mitigation Measures AQ-1 and AQ-2 shall be written on the final building and grading plans. APCD and City staff shall monitor implementation during construction. Implementation of the mitigation measures listed above will reduce all anticipated air quality impacts to an **insignificant** level.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or CDFW and USFWS?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero, as well as San Luis Obispo County and the state of California, emphasize the protection of their diverse ecosystems and the vulnerable species to which they provide habitats.

The project extends an open space creek reservation parcel where the trailhead and parking lot is located and into the CalTrans Right-of-way through an existing Highway 41 bridge underpass. The Atascadero Municipal Code allows underground utilities and repairs to existing facilities with proper permitting by the State and U.S. Departments of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineering as needed. Additionally, environmental review and approval of a Precise Plan is required for work that encroaches beyond the creek top-of-bank, watercourse channel, or within the jurisdictional boundary of a wetland. Furthermore, the City's native tree ordinance requires mitigation of native tree removals in most cases. This is fulfilled via either direct replanting by a project applicant or payment of a fee into the City's native tree fund, which is used to plant native trees on public land.

SWCA Environmental Consultants prepared a Biological Resources Summary Report (May 2026) (Exhibit A) that documented their habitat assessment and jurisdictional delineation and provides recommendations for mitigating anticipated impacts. The project area is located within the Three Bridges Oak Preserve which includes the parking lot and trailhead that borders Atascadero Creek. The site is located within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor which is comprised of riparian and blue oak woodland and intersects the existing CA Highway 41 Bridge. The greater surrounding landscape includes blue oak woodland, California sycamore riparian woodland, annual grassland, and rural residential properties. The elevation on site is approximately 930 to 960 feet above mean sea level.

Atascadero Creek generally flows southwest–northeast before converging with the Salinas River approximately 3.6 miles northeast of the project site. Atascadero Creek is intermittent in nature and is seasonally dry within the upper watershed and project area. At the project area, Atascadero Creek is dominated by a mix of California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) in the overstory. The understory consists of deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), California manroot (*Marah fabacea*), California tule pea (*Lathyrus jepsonii* var. *californicus*) and California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) (See Appendix A – Representative Site Photographs).

Atascadero Creek is considered Waters of the State under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps (of Engineering (USACE)). The riparian woodland that surrounds the project is considered a CDFW sensitive natural community project area is considered suitable habitat in the BSA for seven special-status botanical species and seven special-status wildlife species in addition to nesting birds. A detailed habitat assessment and jurisdictional delineation is included in the attached Biological Resources Summary Report (SWCA, May 2026).



PROPOSED PROJECT: The City owns and maintains a pipeline that carries water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. Approximately 350 linear feet of the pipeline (beginning at the inlet) have degraded, become impacted with sediment, and require repair for the pipeline to function. The City is proposing to replace 350 linear feet of existing piping with new piping of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing piping to restore functionality. Sixty feet of the replacement pipeline will be 15-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and 290 feet will be 15-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride pipe (PVC). The project will also replace three concrete hold-downs measuring 3 feet long x 3 feet wide x 3 feet deep and one concrete hold-down measuring 8 feet long x 5 feet wide x 3 feet deep. The project will result in impacts to 16 riparian trees. Proposed pipeline replacement activities are expected to take two (2) weeks to complete and will occur during dry conditions only (i.e., late summer [Aug-Sept]). As such, no stream diversion will be required. The staging area and laydown yard will be located outside of jurisdictional areas in the paved parking lot at the Three Bridges Oak Preserve. No vegetation removal or ground disturbance will be necessary to establish the staging area. Following project completion, crews will conduct a comprehensive cleanup of the project area including demobilization of equipment and personnel. Equipment to be used includes a rubber tracked mini-excavator, wheeled front-end loader, jumping jack tamping rammer, dump truck, cement mixer, hand tools, and crew trucks. (SWCA, May 2026)

Due to the jurisdictional nature of Atascadero Creek, the Project will require a USACE Section 404 Nationwide Permit 58, RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification for authorization.

BIO IMPACT-1: The project includes replacing an existing pipeline segment and associated concrete hold-downs in the channel and banks of Atascadero Creek. If present, the proposed project could impact purple martin, pallid bat, southwestern pond turtle, Northern California legless lizard, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, and migratory nesting birds by to vehicle strikes and crushing from equipment. **This impact requires mitigation.**

BIO IMPACT-2: The project is located within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor which can be a wildlife corridor for local fauna. Indirect impacts may occur by deterring movement patterns of wildlife caused by construction disturbances. **This impact requires mitigation.**

BIO IMPACT-3: The project is located within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor which provides habitat for several aquatic species, including the California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, South/Central California Coast distinct population segment steelhead, Southwestern pond and turtle. Project construction may result in indirect impacts to aquatic species from erosion, sedimentation, and/or discharges of hazardous materials from construction equipment (e.g., fuel, hydraulic fluids, and oil, etc.). **This impact requires mitigation.**

BIO IMPACT-4. The project requires disturbance within and adjacent to suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds, including impacts to sixteen (16 riparian) trees. If project activities are planned to occur during the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1 through August 31), there is potential for direct and indirect impacts to migratory nesting and special-status birds. Construction-related activities can destroy nests, remove nesting habitat, or cause disturbance that may lead to nest failure or otherwise harass nesting, residents, or transient birds. **This impact requires mitigation.**

BIO IMPACT-5: One CDFW Sensitive Natural Community, California sycamore-coast live oak riparian woodland, was identified within the projects area of disturbance. The project as proposed will require the removal of thirteen (13) red willows (*Salix laevigata*) and trimming of seven (7) red willows and three (3) arroyo willows. **This impact requires mitigation** because the disturbance



may have a detrimental effect on habitat suitability for birds, bats, and other sensitive flora/fauna that rely on them.

BIO IMPACT-6: Atascadero Creek is considered Waters of the State (WOS) under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB and Waters of the U.S. (WOUS) under the jurisdiction USACE. Based on the current project design plans, it is expected that project activities will result in approximately 0.0015 acre and 17 linear feet of permanent impacts and 0.0240 acre and 350 LF of temporary impacts to WOS. Of the 0.0240 acre of total disturbance within WOS, it is expected that the project will result in approximately 0.0006 acre and 9 LF of permanent impacts and 0.0068 acre and 100 LF of temporary impacts to WOUS. The City will obtain and comply with a USACE Section 404 Nationwide Permit 58, RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification because the project involves work directly within the jurisdictional channels. These regulatory approvals will require the execution of a compensatory mitigation plan ensuring the restoration, enhancement, or preservation of jurisdictional resources. Because the project will result in direct permanent and temporary changes to protected channels, **this impact requires mitigation.**

MITIGATION / CONCLUSION:

BIO-1. The incorporation of the following mitigation measures will reduce all identified impacts to biological resources to a ***less than significant with mitigation incorporated:***

1. Prior to the start of construction, the applicant shall prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan that includes the following tree replacement / mitigation that includes replanting of affected trees. The plan shall be prepared in shall be developed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Nationwide Permit 58), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement). Proof of approved permits USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW shall be submitted to the City's planning department prior to construction.
2. An environmental awareness training shall be presented to all construction personnel by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any project activities. The training shall include color photographs and a description of the ecology of all special-status species known or with potential to occur, as well as other sensitive resources requiring avoidance during construction. The training shall also include a description of protection measures required by discretionary permits, an overview of the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and implications of noncompliance with these regulations. This will include an overview of the required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. A sign-in sheet with the name and signature of the qualified biologist who presented the training, and the names and signatures of the environmental awareness trainees will be kept. A fact sheet conveying the information provided in the environmental awareness training will be provided to all project personnel.
3. Within 30 days of commencement of tree removal activities, a focused survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if roosting bats are present in trees scheduled for removal. The survey shall include complete visual inspection and evaluation of large trees for potential roosts. An acoustic survey combined with a visual bat emergence survey shall be conducted. If a bat roost is located in the planned disturbance area and cannot be avoided, a Bat Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (BHMP) shall be prepared, specific to the observed conditions. The BHMP shall contain specific details regarding exclusion efforts for the existing roosting habitat to be removed, details on the type and placement of alternative roosting habitat, and protection measures for



roost habitat to remain if feasible. If a maternity colony is identified during the breeding season (generally April–October) and it cannot be avoided, the qualified biologist shall consult with the CDFW for guidance and shall implement all requirements and recommendations provided by the CDFW.

4. To protect steelhead, no work will occur during active stream flow conditions, and no diversion will be required for the proposed project.
5. A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-activity survey immediately prior to the start of initial ground disturbance to ensure any sensitive wildlife species are not within the work area. If Northern California legless lizard or Coast Range newt are found in the project area, a qualified biologist will relocate the individual to nearby suitable habitat outside of the work area. If southwestern pond turtle is found within the work area, they shall be allowed to leave the area on their own volition. If necessary, resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance.
6. If project activities are expected to occur during the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1 – August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be completed by a qualified biologist within one week prior to project initiation. Surveys for raptors shall be conducted within a 250-foot radius of the project site. If any active non-listed raptor nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be designated, and a no-work buffer of 250 feet shall be established until the young have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest tree or parental care, or the nest is no longer active; reduced buffers may be appropriate and resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance. Surveys for other non-listed avian species shall be conducted within a 50-foot radius of the project site. If any active nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be protected with an appropriate work buffer and monitored by a qualified biologist. All activity will remain outside of the designated buffers until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or that proposed construction activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young. If work activities are deemed to not be a threat to a given nest within a buffer zone, a qualified biologist may monitor the nest during work to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed (e.g., showing signs of stress or changes in behavior as a result of work activity). If any active nests of listed, fully protected, or otherwise special-status bird species are detected during the surveys, the appropriate agency shall be contacted for guidance on how to proceed.

California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) Specific Mitigation:

7. A USFWS-approved biologist (and CDFW-authorized, if required) shall conduct preconstruction clearance surveys within all work areas and a minimum 100-foot buffer no more than 24 hours prior to the start of initial ground disturbance and prior to any nuisance dewatering activities. Clearance surveys shall consist of both a daytime survey and a nighttime survey conducted during suitable environmental conditions (e.g., ambient temperatures generally above 50°F, wind speeds less than approximately 5 miles per hour, and absence of heavy precipitation), when CRLF are most likely to be active and detectable.

Daytime surveys shall focus on identifying suitable aquatic and upland refugia, including ponded nuisance water, saturated soils, vegetated margins, small mammal burrows, root wads, and debris. Nighttime surveys shall be conducted using visual encounter survey methods with high-intensity directional lighting capable of detecting amphibian eyeshine. Acceptable lighting shall include devices such as Wheat lamps, Nite Lights, or sealed-beam lights that produce illumination sufficient for eyeshine detection but do not exceed approximately 100,000 candlepower. The light source shall be held at or near the observer's eye level to maximize detection of eyeshine, and binoculars shall be used in conjunction with the light to improve detection and identification of individuals.



If CRLF are detected, work shall not commence until the individual(s) have either voluntarily moved out of the work area or have been relocated in accordance with AMM-CRLF-3 by an authorized biologist. Clearance surveys shall be repeated if work is delayed more than 24 hours or if site conditions change (e.g., precipitation resulting in new ponding or increased habitat suitability).

8. A qualified biologist shall be present during initial ground disturbance and vegetation removal. The biologist shall monitor for CRLF and ensure implementation of all avoidance and minimization measures. The biologist shall have authority to stop work if CRLF are observed within or adjacent to the work area. If CRLF are observed during construction, work shall cease in the immediate vicinity until the individual has moved away on its own or has been relocated by an authorized biologist.
9. Capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist authorized pursuant to a USFWS Biological Opinion, Section 10 permit, or other applicable federal authorization, and in coordination with CDFW, as appropriate. Qualified biologists may assist with capture and relocation under the direct supervision of the USFWS-approved biologist, who shall remain responsible for ensuring all activities are conducted in accordance with permit conditions and applicable agency protocols. Relocation shall be minimized to the extent practicable and shall only occur when necessary to prevent injury or mortality. Capture methods shall be limited to hand capture or dip nets and shall avoid excessive handling. Individuals shall be relocated to suitable habitat outside the impact area within the same watershed, where feasible, and in locations that provide appropriate cover, moisture, and connectivity to aquatic habitat. Relocation sites shall be identified in advance. All capture and relocation activities shall be documented, including date, number of individuals, life stage, condition, and release location.
10. Dewatering of nuisance water shall be conducted in accordance with USFWS and CDFW protocols to avoid take of CRLF and minimize impacts to aquatic habitat. Prior to dewatering, a qualified biologist shall survey all standing water and remove any CRLF. Dewatering shall be conducted gradually to allow undetected individuals to disperse. Water levels shall be reduced incrementally rather than rapidly drained. Pump intakes shall be screened with mesh no larger than 1/8 inch (3.2 millimeters) and shall be placed within a screened enclosure (e.g., perforated bucket or intake cage) to prevent entrainment and impingement. Pumps shall be operated in a manner that avoids sudden drawdown or stranding of aquatic organisms. Dewatering shall proceed directionally (e.g., from upstream to downstream or from one side of the feature to the other) to avoid isolating individuals. Discharge water shall be released to stable upland or vegetated areas and shall not cause erosion, sedimentation, or degradation of aquatic habitat. Energy dissipation devices shall be used where necessary.
11. Work shall be conducted during the dry season (generally May through October) to minimize the likelihood of CRLF occupying the work area. No work shall occur during or within 24 hours of precipitation events that result in ponding or surface flow within the project area. If rainfall occurs and creates suitable habitat conditions within the work area, construction activities shall be halted and a qualified biologist shall reassess the site and conduct clearance surveys prior to resumption of work.
12. Any holes or trenches will be sloped to allow for wildlife to escape. The qualified biological monitor will inspect all holes and trenches each morning. If the qualified biological monitor finds a California red-legged frog in a hole or trench, capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist.
13. All biologists engaged in capture/relocation activities should follow the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice to avoid or minimize the potential to spread pathogens, such as chytrid fungus.



14. Any California red-legged frogs captured and relocated should be handled for as short a time as possible, and transported to relocation sites as quickly as possible.
15. Biologists should document the location(s) to where California red-legged frogs are relocated, with a description of the habitat and whether any other California red-legged frogs are already present.
16. Special attention should be given to the voids proposed for filling as California red-legged frog may seek cover/refuge in those places. A qualified biologist will permanently remove any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs, crayfish, and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current>).
17. All work performed within jurisdictional waters shall be completed in a manner that minimizes impacts to beneficial uses and habitat. Measures shall be employed to minimize land disturbances that will adversely impact the water quality of jurisdictional waters. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete project implementation.
18. All trash should be covered and/or taken off site to minimize attraction of predators that may feed on special-status species.
19. All refueling and equipment maintenance should be conducted at least 50 feet away from waterbodies to avoid accidental contamination.
20. Any graded or disturbed areas will be restored to pre-project contours.
21. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be on-site prior to the start of project activities and kept on-site at all times so they are immediately available for installation in anticipation of rain events.
22. Erosion and sediment control measures and other construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with all specifications governing their proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance.
23. Erosion control measures such as silt fences and fiber rolls shall be maintained on a daily basis during project activities.
24. There shall be a designated staging area for vehicle fueling and storage at least 50 feet away from any water body, in a location where fluids or accidental discharges cannot flow into waterways.
25. A spill plan and appropriate spill control and clean up materials (e.g., oil absorbent pads) shall be on-site in case spills occur.
26. All vehicles, equipment, materials, and any temporary BMPs no longer needed shall be removed from the site upon completion of the project.
27. Any stockpile(s) shall be kept a minimum of 50 feet from the banks of any water body to prevent material from re-entering a water body. At no time shall any stockpiles, waste piles, or debris associated with this project be located within surface water, or where it can be washed back into surface water. All stockpiled debris shall be covered and surrounded with a linear sediment barrier.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?	☐	☐	☐	☒



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero recognizes the impact of various cultures and ecosystems that have shaped it over generations. Therefore, the City, as well as the County and State, make an effort to preserve cultural resources, known or discovered, during the development of new projects.

The Project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through an under pass and within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor. The surrounding vegetation includes riparian and blue oak woodland. City GIS data derived from USDA Soil Survey data lists the soil types underlying the area where the site is categorized as Millsholm-Dibble Clay Loams.

A Phase 1 Cultural Resources Study and Construction Monitoring report was conducted in 2017 by Applied Earthworks, Inc. for the construction of the adjacent trailhead and parking lot improvements. Background research performed for the study found that no prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are recorded within the vicinity of the study area. The field surveys found no visible surface archaeological materials within the area.

The Atascadero Municipal Code lists standards to be adhered to should archeological artifacts be discovered during the construction process, which include the cessation of all construction activity until proper local, state, and federal protocol is completed (AMC 9-4.162). This protocol includes notifying local Native American Tribes and the City. If human remains are unearthed, the applicant must additionally notify the Atascadero Police Department, County Coroner, and the California Native American Heritage Commission.

PROPOSED PROJECT:

There is **no impact** to cultural resources anticipated from the Project because there are no known historical, archeological, or paleontological resources or human remains on the subject property based on review of internal City Data and consultation with local native communities. However, due to the sites proximity to a creek and assumed archeological sensitivity, mitigation has been included for the unexpected discovery of archeological and cultural resources as discussed in the Tribal Cultural Resources section.



CONCLUSION: No significant impact is expected. No mitigation is required.

6. ENERGY – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The property is an existing parcel zoned Open Space which prohibits development beyond parks, playgrounds, and utility infrastructure. The project site is currently occupied by an existing trail and associated trailhead and parking lot. An existing lakefill pipeline is installed along the trail and Atascadero Creek that allows the transport of water to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. The site is otherwise vacant, open space.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded lake fill pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The project will not require significant energy consumption for installation or operation of the lakefill pipeline.

CONCLUSION: No significant impact is expected. No mitigation is required.



7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions including the following: • Landslides; • Earthquakes; • Liquefaction; • Land subsidence or other similar hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be within a California Geological Survey “Alquist-Priolo” Earthquake Fault Zone, or other known fault zone? (consultant Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #42)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from proposed improvements such as grading, vegetation removal, excavation or use of fill soil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Include any structures located on known expansive soils?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the City’s Safety element relating to geologic and seismic hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero’s General Plan lists and maps potential ground shaking sources that can threaten new construction within its boundaries. The California Department of Conservation developed the Earthquake Hazard Zone App, which allows users to determine if a parcel is located in an earthquake zone. The subject parcel is not within an earthquake fault zone according to Department of Conservation data.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350’ through a Highway 41 under pass.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides GIS data regarding the site’s soils, stability and risk of hazards. According to this data the soil on the site is composed of Millsholm-Dibble clay loams classified as being “Very Poorly to Not Well Drained” and having “Moderate to



High” erodibility. Soil shrink and swell is characterized as being “Moderate to High”. San Luis Obispo County categorized the building site as being at “Low” risk for landslides and “Low” risk for liquefaction. Septic suitability on the site is labeled as “Severe”, due to excessive slope and/or depth to rock and/or slow percolation.

Atascadero Municipal Code 9-4.142-154 describe the requirements for all grading and excavation subject to permits including preparation of Grading Drainage, and Erosion Control plans by a Civil Engineer and provision of an engineering geology report. City Grading standards Grading plans are reviewed through the standard City Plan Check process which and approved when found that:

1. The extent and nature of proposed grading is appropriate to the use proposed and will not create site disturbance to an extent greater than that required for the use.
2. Proposed grading will not result in erosion, stream sedimentation, or other adverse off-site effects or hazards to life or property.
3. The proposed grading will not create substantial adverse long-term visual effects visible from off-site.
4. The proposed grading conforms with the Uniform Building Code and recommendations provided in the engineering geology report.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350’ segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation to remove the existing pipeline and create an appropriate surface for the new pipe to be installed and 96 cubic yards of export. Upon completion of construction, the site will be returned to their original condition.

GEO-Impact 1: The Project will have a **less than significant impact** regarding exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions; soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions; placement of structures on expansive soils; and soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks. Compliance with locally adopted Engineering Standards will be required. Compliance will be confirmed during the plan check process.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐



EXISTING SETTING: Greenhouse gases (GHG) including carbon dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), fluorinated gases, and water vapor, can cause significant harm to the environment and have adverse effects public health. The City of Atascadero and the San Luis Obispo County Air Quality Control District (SLO APCD) attempt to regulate GHG emissions to promote environmental and public health as well as energy efficiency.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project is largely limited to trenching and excavation along the linear path of the existing pipeline and expected to have a total work area of approximately 9,000 SF.

The City of Atascadero's Climate Action Plan (2014) (CAP) acts as the City's primary plan for Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies. However, the CAP only identified a city wide GHG reduction target through the year 2020. While the strategies outlined in the CAP are still valuable tools by which to reduce City-wide GHG emissions, the City must presently rely on Countywide reduction targets for evaluation project-level GHG emissions. The *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (SLO County APCD, 2023) provides Greenhouse Gas (GHG) thresholds that are projected through the year 2045 based on Countywide emission inventories and required state emission reduction targets. The document additionally provides screening criteria that utilizes project size to determine whether a project would have significant GHG emissions based on it assumed operational year through 2045. These criteria are generally aimed at identifying triggers for GHG Emissions analysis for larger projects with significant operational emissions such as residential and commercial construction projects. Specific criteria for small-scale infrastructure projects are not specifically provided but safe assumptions can be made based on the list of uses 2026 Operational Year Screening Criteria for Project Air Quality Analysis.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded lake-fill pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes.

GHG Impact 1: The Project will not conflict with the City of Atascadero's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Since there is no conflict with the adopted CAP, then ***the impact is insignificant.***

GHG Impact 2: SLO APCD's project screening criteria does not provide criteria for small scale infrastructure projects like the proposed pipeline replacement. However, a safe assumption can be made regarding the impacts of the repair and replacement-in-kind of the pipeline. The project is designed to restore the existing, historically baseline capacity of the pipeline and will not introduce new land uses, capacity expansions, new stationary sources, or vehicle trips. Given that the scale and scope of the pipeline is significantly smaller than the projects listed in the *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (SLO County APCD, 2023) screening criteria for projects with significant GHG emissions, then ***the impact from this project is insignificant.***

GHG Impact 3: There are **no cumulative impacts** anticipated because there are no major projects occurring in the vicinity of the Project.

MITIGATION / CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are anticipated. No further mitigation is required.



9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒



EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero attempts to locate new construction in a way that reduces risk for damage during disasters as well exposure to hazardous materials. Where this cannot be achieved, the city has created regulations and standards to protect public health and safety as much as possible.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project site is primarily surrounded by recreation and open space zoned parcels, CalTrans Right of Way, and a few rural residential properties. The nearest airports are the Paso Robles Municipal Airport and the San Luis Obispo Regional Airport. The site is located approximately 15 miles from both of these airports. Vegetation on the site consists of riparian and oak woodland. The construction site is within the City's identified wildlife-urban interface (WUI) area.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded lake-fill pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes.

HAZ IMPACT-1: The Project is proposed on a site identified as being within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) zone. Though the project is proposed in the WUI, it will not result in the exposure of people or new structures to additional risk loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, therefore the **impact is less than significant**.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner that would:				



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: Alterations to existing landscapes, developed or otherwise, can affect hydrology on the site by increasing runoff, elevating flood risk, or contaminating water sources. These impacts on the hydrologic cycle can have adverse effects on human health as well as the health of existing ecosystems.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. USDA characterizes the site as having "Moderate" and "Moderate to High" erodibility. The site does not fall within any mapped floodplains or flood hazard areas.

The urbanized areas of the Central Coast are divided into ten water management zones (WMZs) based on the receiving water type and common watershed processes. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) provides maps showing that the site is located in Water WMZ 2 and WMZ 5 (CRWQCB, 2013). The California Department of Water Resources provides a tool to assess the boundaries of significant groundwater basins in California. The subject site is not within any significant groundwater basin. The nearest basin is the Atascadero sub-basin of the Salinas Valley Basin on the eastern side of the city.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is the state certifying authority responsible for reviewing the project to ensure that all proposed construction and maintenance activities comply with California water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, and the



regional Basin Plan. Atascadero Creek is a jurisdictional surface water body under both federal and state definitions. Because the proposed project requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for activities involving excavation and the placement of materials within a waterway, it legally triggers the requirement for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification

That Atascadero Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) (Wallace Group, 2009) and the Central Coast post-construction stormwater requirements (CRWQCB, 2013) provide standards to protect water quality and control runoff from new construction. These documents require mitigation or alterations in design for projects that significantly increase the number of impervious surfaces. Additionally, they address erosion control for new construction.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation within the Atascadero Creek drainage channel. Once completed, the project will not result in the creation of wastewater nor solid waste, nor does it require a separate water or sewer service to operate requiring an expansion of utilities or services to the area.

HWQ IMPACT-1: Construction activities, including 96 cubic yards of excavation and the removal of riparian vegetation near the pipeline inlet, could temporarily increase the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation within Atascadero Creek. However, because the total disturbed area is under one acre, the project does not trigger a state Construction General Permit. Instead, standard localized Best Management Practices (BMPs)—such as the installation of silt fences, straw wattles, and proper equipment staging away from the active channel—will be implemented to prevent sediment runoff. Additionally, the City will obtain and comply with a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) because the project involves work directly within the jurisdictional waters of the state. The 401 Certification will require implementation of Best Management Practices—such as silt fencing, fiber rolls, equipment fueling restrictions, and active channel isolation if water is present—specifically tailored to protect the creek during construction. Once operational, the repaired pipeline will transport water in an identical manner to the historical baseline. Since the project will have to comply with the mandatory RWQCB 401 Certification conditions, impacts to water quality will be **less than significant**. Impacts to the riparian corridor are further discussed in the Biological Resources section of this initial study.

HWQ IMPACT-2: The project is a replacement-in-kind facility that will operate with equivalent capacity and along the same alignment as the existing pipeline. It does not introduce any new impervious surfaces that would impede natural groundwater recharge, nor does it involve groundwater pumping or increased water extraction. The project simply restores the functional capacity to divert high-flow surface water to Atascadero Lake. Therefore, the project will have **no impact** on groundwater supplies or basin management.

HWQ IMPACT-3: The replacement pipeline and repaired concrete hold-downs will be placed entirely within the existing alignment and will match the historical design capacity. Maintenance of the existing intake structures and diversion boxes will not alter the geometry, course, or baseline flow capacity of Atascadero Creek. No new impervious surfaces are being added that would alter local drainage paths or increase surface runoff rates. Following construction, the creek banks will be stabilized to prevent long-term erosion. Therefore, **no impacts** to existing drainage patterns or runoff volumes will occur.



HWQ IMPACT-4: While the intake structures are located within a seasonal creek channel subject to high-flow events, the project involves subterranean pipeline repair and structural maintenance. It does not introduce any new housing, storage facilities, or hazardous material storage that could risk releasing pollutants during a flood event. The project area is completely inland and not subject to tsunami or seiche hazards. Therefore, **no impact** will occur.

HWQ IMPACT-5: The project designed to restore the capacity of the existing Lake Fill Pipeline, the project will not alter regional water management strategies or conflict with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan. Furthermore, because it does not extract groundwater or interfere with infiltration, it will not obstruct the Atascadero Area Groundwater Subbasin management goals. **No impact** will occur.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

11. LAND USE & PLANNING – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero regulates land uses in attempt to create a sensible, safe, and healthy environment for the residents of the city. Policies regarding land use planning and conservation can be found in the Atascadero General Plan and associated documents.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project site is primarily surrounded by recreation and open space zoned parcels, CalTrans Right of Way, and a few rural residential properties.

The City of Atascadero General Plan and Zoning Ordinance regulate the type of land uses allowable in each zoning district and what specifications are required of their development. The Atascadero Municipal Code allows construction of utility facilities within a creek channel provided that environmental review is completed

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded lake-fill pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes.

The proposed lakefill pipeline would replace an existing segment of pipeline of the same capacity and in the same location. The project will have **no impact** related to any established communities. The completion of this initial study for the project allows analysis of impacts and adoption of



mitigation to known sensitive areas on the project site. Since the work is allowed by the zoning code, the project will have no impact due to conflicts with any land use policies or plans.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES – Will the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: Mineral resources are protected in the state of California for their economic benefits.

The project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. According to GIS data from USGS, the soil type is identified as Millsholm-Dibble clay loams. There are no records that show evidence of mineral resources on the site.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. There are no known mineral resources mapped or identified on the subject property or in the vicinity. Therefore, **no impact** is expected to occur.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

13. NOISE – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero regulates noise pollution because of the potential for adverse effects on human health and safety.

The existing lake-fill pipeline extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project site is not eligible for housing based on its current zoning and use as a state right of way. Highway 41 is the closest major noise generator to the site and is located directly above the project site. There is minimal noise that carries to the site from neighboring open space and rural residential parcels.

The Atascadero Municipal Code provides the following noise limitations for exterior noise during daytime and nighttime hours:

EXTERIOR NOISE LEVEL STANDARDS		
	Daytime	Nighttime
	(7 a.m. to 9 p.m.)	(9 p.m. to 7 a.m.)
Hourly Equivalent Sound Level (Leq, dB)	50	45
Maximum, dB	70	65

Construction activities are exempt from these noise limitations between seven AM and nine PM. During the hours of nine PM to seven AM the maximum allowable decibel range for all noise created is sixty-five decibels. This regulation is intended to minimize noise during periods of the day when nearby residents will typically be sleeping.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline.

The Project will not result in noise beyond the existing baseline levels, except during the construction phase. Noise during construction can be considered a nuisance by users of the



adjacent open space and trail, and neighboring residential uses. There will be no on-going, operational noise.

NOI IMPACT-1: The subject site will create a temporary source of noise pollution during the construction process. The Atascadero Municipal Code exempts construction activities from the City's noise regulations during the hours of 7am and 9pm, and otherwise limits noise to a maximum of sixty-five decibels during those hours. Since the Atascadero Municipal code addresses noise concerns, the **impact is less than significant**.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

14. POPULATION & HOUSING – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The State of California aims to ensure adequate housing and quality living environments by requiring cities to take detailed accounts of current housing stock and needs as well as projections of expected future needs. The Atascadero General Plan Housing Element identifies housing related goals for the city and methods by which to achieve them.

The existing lake-fill pipeline extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project site is not eligible for housing based on its current zoning and use as a state right of way.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline.

No existing housing units are being demolished as part of this project. The project will not have an effect on population growth. **No impact** will occur.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

15. PUBLIC SERVICE:



Will the proposed project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Emergency Services (Atascadero Fire)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Police Services (Atascadero Police)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Public Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: New construction, including capital projects, place increased demand on local public service. For this reason, the City must ensure that existing services and future improvements can accommodate expected expansions and new connections.

The existing lake-fill pipeline extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass. The project area is served by City Fire and Police. The City's Public Works Department maintains the lakefill pipeline. The adjacent trail and Three Bridge Oaks Preserve are primarily maintained by the Atascadero Land Preservation Society.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline.

The replacement of the existing pipeline with an equivalent pipeline will have **no impact** on existing public services or require any new or altered services.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

16. RECREATION:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero attempts to provide quality open spaces and recreation areas for its residents as it continues to grow. The Atascadero General Plan recognizes the importance of access to parks and recreation areas. The General Plan Land Use, Conservation and Open Space Element Program areas 11.1.3-5 promote this access and aim for a ration of five acres of open space for every one thousand residents.

The Project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and 96 cubic yards of export. Upon completion of construction, the site will be returned to their original condition.

The project does not include the construction or alteration of recreational facilities and therefore **no impact** is expected from such facilities.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

17. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) (criteria for analysis of vehicle miles traveled)?	☐	☐	☐	☒



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero strives to provide a quality transportation network that is feasible and practical for the needs of the City.

The Project site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and 96 cubic yards of export.

TRT IMPACT-1: The replacement of the existing lake fill pipeline will have **no impact** on any adopted transportation plan or policy regarding the local circulation system, vehicle miles travelled, existing driveways or road geometry, or emergency access. Transportation of any import or export material will comply with local transportation permit requirements for the City and CalTrans where applicable.

CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No additional mitigation is required.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☒	☐	☐



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
(ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: San Luis Obispo County and the surrounding region is an ancestral home to various Native American tribes. This leads to the occasional discovery of tribal resources during construction operations. Local and State regulation recognize the importance of coordinating with local tribes and archeological services to preserve these resources.

The Project will be located within the Atascadero Creek drainage channel. The site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass.

The City of Atascadero's General Plan Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element Programs 6.2.4-6 require the mitigation and noticing of pertinent parties when archaeological discoveries are made in the city. The AMC lists standards to be adhered to should archeological remains be discovered during the construction process which include the cessation of all construction activity until proper local, state, and federal protocol is completed. (AMC 9-4.162) Finally, The California Environmental Quality Act requires the lead agency to notify regional tribes about projects that trigger environmental review. After notifying the regional tribes, they are allowed to require further studies to be administered during any project if they believe that there is potential for cultural artifacts to be found.

PROPOSED PROJECT The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The depth of the pipeline will vary between 6"-12", equivalent to the existing pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation, removal of six Red willow trees, and trimming of an additional seven red willows and three arroyo willows which are not



identified in the City Native Tree Ordinance. Following project completion, the site will be restored to existing contours and stabilized.

The Northern Chumash Tribal Council, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the Xolon Salinan Tribe contacted the City to request a tribal consultation for the project, pursuant to state law (AB52). Representatives of the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians conducted a site visit with City Staff.

TCR IMPACT-1: The project is located within the Atascadero Creek drainage channel which is considered an archeologically sensitive area by several native regional communities. Based on previous study and surveys of the area, there are no known historical, archeological, or paleontological resources or human remains on the subject property. However, earthwork for the project may still result in discovery of artifacts not previously seen or known to exist within the project area. **This impact requires mitigation.**

MITIGATION:

CR-01: Initial site disturbance activities including removal of the existing pipe and existing concrete joint or anchor boxes, shall be monitored by a qualified archeologist or a local tribal representative. In the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction or earth disturbing activities, the following standards apply:

- 1) Construction activities shall cease and the Planning Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of the materials discovered may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with State and Federal law.
- 2) In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and local tribal representatives so proper disposition may be accomplished.

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The City of Atascadero must account for all impacts to infrastructure and utilities to ensure that existing infrastructure is able to handle current and future demands.

The City of Atascadero owns a pipeline that carries water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. Approximately 350 linear feet of that pipeline, extending from the Three Bridge Oaks trailhead into the CalTrans Right of Way and through a Highway 41 underpass, have degraded, become impacted with sediment, and require repair for the pipeline to function. The existing pipeline transports only water and does not result in the creation of wastewater nor solid waste, nor does it require a separate water or sewer service to operate.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation within the Atascadero Creek drainage channel. Once completed, the project will not result in the creation of wastewater nor solid waste, nor does it require a separate water or sewer service to operate requiring an expansion of utilities or services to the area.

USS IMPACT-1: The project will replace an existing, degraded lake fill pipeline segment within an environmentally sensitive area with a new pipeline of equivalent capacity in the same location and depth. No utility services are offered and no city services will need to be expanded to complete or operate the project. Therefore, there is **no impact** related to utility and service systems. Impacts to biological resources and cultural resources are discussed in those sections.

MITIGATION / CONCLUSION: No significant impacts are expected. No mitigation is required.

20. WILDFIRE:



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The Project site is in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) zone and located within the drainage channel of Atascadero Creek in a riparian and oak woodland, with afternoon prevailing winds originating from the Pacific Ocean about 10 miles to the west.

All construction in the City must comply with applicable provisions of California Fire Code which outlines fire-safe practices for construction and demolition operations, including the retention of onsite fire protection equipment (e.g. fire extinguishers) and proper operation combustion powered equipment.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation. Once completed, the project will not introduce any vertical structures, habitable spaces, or permanent project occupants to the area.

Therefore, the project will have **no impact** related to long-term wildfire risks.



WF IMPACT-1: The City has an adopted evacuation plan and provides emergency services to the project site. The proposed replacement of the existing lake-fill pipeline infrastructure will have **no impact** on the execution of this plan.

WF IMPACT-2: The replacement pipeline will be installed in the same location within the Atascadero Creek drainage as the existing pipeline. The repair of concrete hold-downs and drainage structures will stabilize the alignment, minimizing the risk of long-term downslope or downstream instability. Therefore, the project will have **a less than significant impact** related to short-term and long-term environmental factors that could expose residents to an elevated risk of wildfire

WF IMPACT-3: The project involves the replacement of approximately 350' of a lakefill pipeline and maintenance of associated structures in the WUI zone. The replacement pipeline will follow the exact alignment of the existing pipeline, maintain equivalent capacity, and be constructed of non-combustible materials. The pipeline operation will not utilize electrical lines, fuel reservoirs, or combustible elements that could cause a wildfire ignition. Therefore, ***the impact is less than significant.***

WF IMPACT-4: **No impact** is anticipated related to the exposure people or structures to significant risk of hazards. The Project will replace existing pipeline in the same location with a new pipeline of equivalent capacity. The project will not create new hazardous slopes or significantly alter the existing drainage channel.

CONCLUSION: No significant impact is expected. No mitigation measures are required.

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

	Potentially Significant	Impact Requires Mitigation	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	☐	☐	☒	☐



	Potentially Significant	Impact Requires Mitigation	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

EXISTING SETTING: The Project will be located within the Atascadero Creek drainage channel. The site extends from an existing open space zoned parcel that utilized as the Three Bridge Oak Preserve parking lot and trailhead and follows an existing trail into the Cal Trans ROW for approximately 350' through a Highway 41 under pass.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project involves a pipeline replacement and repair of the approximately 350' segment of the degraded pipeline and associated concrete hold-downs, and maintenance of existing intake structures and diversion boxes. The replacement pipeline will be of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing pipe to restore functionality to the pipeline. The project will require approximately 96 cubic yards of excavation and removal of riparian vegetation. Once completed, the project will not introduce any vertical structures, habitable spaces, or permanent project occupants to the area. As mitigated, the project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION: No significant impact is expected. No mitigation is required.

For further information on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or the City's environmental review process, please visit the City's website at www.atascadero.org under the Community Development Department or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/> for additional information on CEQA.



Exhibit A – Initial Study References & Outside Agency Contacts

The Community Development Department of the City of Atascadero has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the proposed project, the following outside agencies have been contacted (marked with a ☒) with a notice of intent to adopt a proposed negative / mitigated negative declaration.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Atascadero Mutual Water Company | ☒ Native American Heritage Commission |
| ☒ Atascadero Unified School District | ☐ San Luis Obispo Council of Governments |
| ☒ Atascadero Waste Alternatives | ☐ San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District |
| ☒ AB 52 – Salinan Tribe | ☐ San Luis Obispo Integrated Waste Management Board |
| ☒ AB 52 – Northern Chumash Tribe | ☐ Regional Water Quality Control Board District 3 |
| ☒ AB 52 – Xolon Salinan Tribe | ☐ HEAL SLO – Healthy Communities Workgroup |
| ☒ AB 52 – SLO County Chumash Council | ☐ US Postal Service |
| ☒ AB 52 – Santa Ynez Chumash | ☐ Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) |
| ☒ AB 52 – Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians | ☐ Southern California Gas Co. (SoCal Gas) |
| ☒ AB 52 – Chumash Council of Bakersfield | ☐ San Luis Obispo County Assessor |
| ☒ AB 52 – Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation | ☐ LAFCO |
| ☒ AB 52 – Northern Chumash Tribal Council | ☐ Office of Historic Preservation |
| ☒ AB 52 – Tule River Indian Tribe | ☐ Charter Communications |
| ☐ California Highway Patrol | ☐ CA Housing & Community Development |
| ☒ California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Region 4) | ☐ CA Department of Toxic Substances Control |
| ☒ California Department of Transportation (District 5) | ☒ US Army Corp of Engineers |
| ☐ San Luis Obispo County Planning & Building | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ Upper Salinas – Las Tablas RCD | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ Central Coast Information Center (CA. Historical Resources Information System) | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ CA Department of Food & Agriculture | ☐ Other: |
| ☐ CA Department of Conservation | |
| ☐ CA Air Resources Board | |
| ☐ Address Management Service | |



The following checked (“☒”) reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the Community Development Department and requested copies of information may be viewed by requesting an appointment with the project planner at (805) 461-5000.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Project File / Application / Exhibits / Studies | ☒ Adopted Atascadero Capital Facilities Fee Ordinance |
| ☒ Atascadero General Plan 2025 / Final EIR | ☐ Atascadero Inclusionary Housing Policy |
| ☒ Atascadero Municipal Code | ☒ SLO APCD Handbook |
| ☐ Atascadero Appearance Review Manual | ☐ Regional Transportation Plan |
| ☐ Atascadero Urban Stormwater Management Plan | ☒ Flood Hazard Maps |
| ☒ Atascadero Hillside Grading Guidelines | ☒ CDFW / USFW Mapping |
| ☒ Atascadero Native Tree Ordinance & Guidelines | ☐ CA Natural Species Diversity Data Base |
| ☒ Atascadero Climate Action Plan (CAP) | ☒ Archeological Resources Map |
| ☐ Atascadero Downtown Revitalization Plan | ☒ Atascadero Mutual Water Company Urban Water Management Plan |
| ☐ Atascadero Bicycle Transportation Plan | ☒ CalEnvironScreen |
| ☒ Atascadero GIS mapping layers | ☒ Biological Resources Summary Report for the City of Atascadero Lake Fill Pipeline Replacement Project (SWCA, 2026) |
| ☐ Other _____ | ☐ Other _____ |



May 21, 2026

Ryan Hayes
Deputy Director/ Engineering & Utilities
City of Atascadero Public Works
6500 Palma Ave
Atascadero, CA 93422
Via email: rhayes@atascadero.org

Re: Biological Resources Summary Report for the City of Atascadero Lake Fill Pipeline Replacement Project / SWCA Project No. 101578

Dear Ryan Hayes:

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has prepared this Biological Resources Summary Report to document the results of a habitat assessment and jurisdictional delineation completed in support of the City of Atascadero Public Works Department (City), Atascadero Lake Fill Pipeline Replacement Project, San Luis Obispo County, California.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located within the Atascadero U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in the City of Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County (County), California. The project site is located below the CA Highway 41 Bridge over Atascadero Creek, approximately two miles southwest of CA Highway 101 (see Attachment A – Figure A-1. Project Vicinity). The project area is located in the Three Bridges Oak Preserve at Atascadero Creek. The work area's center is located at latitude 35.457350°, longitude -120.688365° (WGS84).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City owns and maintains a pipeline that carries water from Atascadero Creek to Atascadero Lake during high-flow events. Approximately 350 linear feet of the pipeline (beginning at the inlet) have degraded, become impacted with sediment, and require repair for the pipeline to function. The City is proposing to replace 350 linear feet of existing piping with new piping of equivalent capacity in the same alignment as the existing piping to restore functionality (see Attachment A – Figure A-2. BSA). Sixty feet of the replacement pipeline will be 15-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and 290 feet will be 15-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride pipe (PVC). The project will also replace three concrete hold-downs measuring 3 feet long x 3 feet wide x 3 feet deep and one concrete hold-down measuring 8 feet long x 5 feet wide x 3 feet deep. The project will result in impacts to 16 riparian trees.

Proposed pipeline replacement activities are expected to take two (2) weeks to complete and will occur during dry conditions only (i.e., late summer [Aug-Sept]). As such, no stream diversion will be required. The staging area and laydown yard will be located outside of jurisdictional areas in the paved parking lot at the Three Bridges Oak Preserve. No vegetation removal or ground disturbance will be necessary to

establish the staging area. Following project completion, crews will conduct a comprehensive cleanup of the project area including demobilization of equipment and personnel. Equipment to be used includes a rubber tracked mini-excavator, wheeled front-end loader, jumping jack tamping rammer, dump truck, cement mixer, hand tools, and crew trucks.

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The project area is located within the Three Bridges Oak Preserve which includes the parking lot and trailhead that borders Atascadero Creek. The site is located within the Atascadero Creek riparian corridor which is comprised of riparian and blue oak woodland and intersects the existing CA Highway 41 Bridge. The greater surrounding landscape includes blue oak woodland, California sycamore riparian woodland, annual grassland, and rural residential properties. The elevation on site is approximately 930 to 960 feet above mean sea level. Representative Site Photographs are included in Attachment B.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Prior to conducting field surveys, SWCA staff completed a background review of relevant literature pertaining to sensitive resources known to occur in the project vicinity, which included the following:

- Aerial photographs of the project site (Google Earth 1985 – 2026),
- USGS topographic map for the Atascadero 7.5-minute quadrangle (USGS 2026),
- Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH) online database of plant collections (CCH 2026),
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants for the Atascadero 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding quadrangles (York Mountain, Templeton, Creston, Santa Margarita, Lopez Mountain, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay South, Morro Bay North) (CNPS 2026a),
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) list of state and federally listed special-status species documented within the Atascadero 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding quadrangles (CDFW 2026),
- CNDDB list of special-status species that have been documented within a 5-mile radius of the project site (CDFW 2026),
- Xerces Society (Xerces) Bumble Bee Watch for the Atascadero 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding quadrangles,
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Report (USFWS 2026a), and
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI), Wetlands Mapper (USFWS 2026b).

A list of regionally occurring special-status species was reviewed based on records reported in the scientific database queries (see Attachment C – Regionally Occurring Special-status Species). This species list was used to inform the field survey effort.

SWCA biologists Monica Hemenez and Samantha West and botanist Kyle Suchy conducted a field survey of the biological study area (BSA) on March 02, 2026, and a spring botanical survey and tree inventory was conducted on May 6, 2026 by Kyle Suchy. The BSA included the entire proposed project area, and an approximate 150-foot buffer, where access was feasible (see Attachment A – Figure A-2). The surveyors assessed plant communities and suitable habitat for special-status species. Vegetation communities and land cover types were characterized, and natural communities were classified using the

second edition of A Manual of California Vegetation (MCV) classification system (Sawyer et al. 2009), as well as updates included in the MCV Online (CNPS 2026b). During the survey, all botanical and wildlife species observed, including those detected by indirect sign (i.e., tracks, scat, skeletal remains, dens, burrows, or vocalizations), were documented (see Attachment D – Botanical and Wildlife Species Observed).

Aquatic Resources Delineation Methods

In addition to assessing plant communities and special-status species, an aquatic resources delineation was completed to identify and map the linear extent of the Atascadero Creek within the BSA. Specifically, a jurisdictional delineation was conducted in accordance with the technical methods outlined in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the arid West Region of the United States (Lichvar and McColley 2008).

Waters of the United States

Because a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation was not observed in the channel, USACE jurisdiction was mapped by evidence of Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). The delineators used A Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark in the Arid West Region of the Western United States: A Delineation Manual (Lichvar and McColley 2008) as guidance to map the OHWM as the boundaries of the Waters of the U.S.

Waters of the State

CDFW jurisdiction under California Fish and Game Code 1602 and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act was mapped by evidence of cut bank and channel, or evidence of historical flows, to the point where no confining feature was present. Therefore, Waters of the State under CDFW and RWQCB jurisdiction was delineated to the top of the drainage banks, or outer edge of the riparian vegetation where riparian vegetation was present.

RESULTS

The following summarizes the results of the field survey that was conducted within the proposed project area and provides further analysis of the data collected in the field. Discussions regarding jurisdictional delineation, botanical and wildlife surveys, and likelihood for special-status species occurrence are presented below.

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Vegetation communities and land cover types were assessed and classified based on vegetation composition, structure, and density. Natural vegetation communities and land cover types observed within the BSA are described below (see Attachment A – Figure A-3: Vegetation and Land Cover Types).

Riparian Woodland

This community occurs throughout the majority of the project area on either bank of Atascadero Creek. The overstory is co-dominated by California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), with scattered valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). The midstory is intermittent and is dominated by mule fat and occasionally coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea*). The understory of this vegetation community consists of deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), California manroot (*Marah fabacea*), California tule pea (*Lathyrus jepsonii* var.

californicus) and California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). This species composition most closely corresponds with California sycamore – coast live oak riparian woodland (*Platanus racemosa* – *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance) in the MCV classification system. This community also has a State Rarity rank of S3, making it a CDFW sensitive natural community.

Blue Oak Woodland

The primary vegetation west of the unnamed drainage is characterized by a dominance of blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) in the overstory. The understory of this community was dominated by annual grasses and forbs including soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), rusty haired popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus* ssp. *pycnocephalus*), and wild oats (*Avena fatua*). This species composition most closely corresponds with blue oak woodland (*Quercus douglasii* Forest & Woodland Alliance) in the MCV classification system.

Developed / Disturbed

This land cover type includes the portion of CA Highway 41, the shoulders of the highway devoid of vegetation, and the paved Three Bridges trailhead parking area. Vegetation cover in this area is limited to ruderal grasses and forbs.

Special-Status Botanical Species

For the purposes of this section, special-status plant species are defined as the following:

- Plants listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Section 17.12 for listed plants and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species).
- Plants that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA.
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15380).
- Plants considered by the CNPS to be “rare, threatened, or endangered” in California (CRPR 1B and 2 in CNPS 2026).
- Plants listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 670.5).
- Plants listed under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.).
- Plants considered sensitive by other federal agencies (i.e., U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management), state and local agencies, or jurisdictions.

Based on a CNDDDB query and a review of existing literature, a total of 97 special-status plant species have been documented within the nine quadrangles surrounding the project area. Because this list of species is considered regional, an analysis of the range and habitat preferences of those plant species was conducted to identify which sensitive plant species have potential to occur within the BSA. SWCA determined that there is suitable habitat in the BSA for seven special-status botanical species. Additionally, individual oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) are considered a sensitive resource by the County. The following sections provide a description of the special-status plant species that have the potential to occur on-site.

Salinas Milkvetch

Salinas milkvetch (*Astragalus macrodon*, CRPR 4.3) is a perennial herb that is endemic to the Inner South Coast Ranges of California. This species typically occurs in eroded shale or sandstone soils or serpentine alluvium in association with various vegetation communities including grassland, chaparral, and woodland. It has been documented at elevations ranging from 656 to 5,085 feet (200 to 1,550 meters) and may tolerate some disturbance. The typical blooming period is from April to June (Jepson Flora Project 2026). Threats to this species are not well documented (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the grassland openings in the blue oak woodland on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Lemmon's Jewelflower

Lemmon's jewelflower (*Caulanthus lemmonii*, CRPR 1B.2) is an annual herb that is endemic to California. It is known to occur throughout the Inner and Outer South Coast Ranges and along the western foothills of the San Joaquin Valley, with unconfirmed populations extending east along the Transverse Ranges and into the northwest corner of the Mojave Desert. This species typically grows in grassland, chaparral, and scrub communities at elevations ranging from 24 to 3,609 feet (80 to 1,100 meters). The typical blooming period is from March to May (Jepson Flora Project 2026). Documented threats to this species include development, grazing, and vehicle traffic (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the grassland openings in the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

San Benito Poppy

San Benito poppy (*Eschscholzia hypocoides*, CRPR 4.3) is an annual herb endemic to the inner Coast Range of California. This species typically occurs in serpentine clay in the grassy areas of cismontane woodland, chaparral, and valley and foothill grasslands at elevations ranging from 655 to 4920 feet (200 to 1500 meters). The typical blooming period for this species is March to June (CNPS 2026). Threats to this species are not well-documented (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the grassland openings in the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Salinas Valley Goldfields

Salinas Valley goldfields (*Lasthenia leptalea*, CRPR 4.3) is an annual herb that is known to occur in the outer South Coast Ranges of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. This species occurs in the openings of woodland communities at elevations below 1,640 feet (500 meters). The typical blooming period is from February to May (Jepson Flora Project 2026). Threats to this species are not well documented but may include development (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the grassland openings in the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Fragrant Bushmallow

Fragrant bushmallow (*Malacothamnus jonesii* var. *niveus*, CRPR 4.3) is a perennial shrub that is endemic to California. This species typically occurs in open chaparral in cismontane woodland at elevations

ranging from 950 to 3,445 feet (290 to 1,050 meters). The typical blooming period for this species is from May to June (Jepson Flora Project 2026). Threats to this species include nonnative plants, development, altered flood regimes, and mining (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Michael's Rein Orchid

Michael's rein orchid (*Platanthera michaelii*, CRPR 4.2) is a perennial herb that is known to occur as far north as Humboldt County and as far south as Los Angeles County along the coast and coastal mountains. It also occurs in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada from Butte to Tulare Counties. This species typically occurs in dry habitats, including coastal scrub, woodland, and mixed-evergreen, and in closed-cone pine forests at elevations below 2,297 feet (700 meters). The typical blooming period is from April to August (Jepson Flora Project 2026). Threats to this species are not well-documented but may include road widening (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Santa Lucia Gooseberry

Santa Lucia gooseberry (*Ribes sericeum*, CRPR 4.3) is a perennial deciduous shrub that is endemic to the California central coast. This species occurs in forest openings, coastal scrub, and streamside thickets at elevations between 590 – 2,625 feet (180 – 800 meters). The typical blooming period is from December to April (Jepson eFlora 2026). Threats to this species are not well documented (CNPS 2026). Suitable habitat for this species is present within the grassland openings in the blue oak woodland habitat on-site. This species was not detected during the survey, which occurred within its typical blooming period. As such, this species is not expected to occur on-site.

Native Oaks

Blue oak, coast live oak and valley oak were observed within the project area. Oak trees are considered a sensitive resource by the County.

Special-status Wildlife Species

For the purposes of this section, special-status animal species are defined as the following:

- Animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA (50 CFR Section 17.11 for listed animals and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species).
- Animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened and endangered under the CESA (14 CCR Section 670.5).
- Animal Species of Special Concern (SSC) to CDFW.
- Animal species that are fully protected in California (California Fish and Game Code Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

Based on a CNDDDB query and a review of existing literature, a total of 33 sensitive wildlife species have been documented within the nine quadrangles surrounding the project area. Because this list of species is considered regional, an analysis of the range and habitat preferences of those animal species was conducted to identify which sensitive wildlife species have the potential to occur within the BSA. SWCA determined that there is suitable habitat within the BSA for seven special-status wildlife species in

addition to nesting birds. One special-status species, Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*), was observed during the March survey. In addition, USFWS-designated Critical Habitat for California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) overlaps the project site.

The following sections provide a description of the special-status wildlife species for which suitable habitat was identified on-site.

Purple Martin

Purple martins (*Progne subis*, SSC) use low-elevation wooded habitats such as valley foothills, montane hardwood-conifer forests, and riparian forests. Nesting usually occurs in cavities of tall and old trees, isolated tree snags, or woodlands between April and August. Less common nest locations include culverts and under bridges. During migration, purple martins can be found in grasslands, wet meadows, and freshwater emergent wetlands. Forage is comprised of gliding insects, ants, and other ground insects. Declines in this species have been attributed to loss of riparian habitat, removal of snags, and nest cavity competition from European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) (Zeiner et. al. 1988 – 1990a). This species was not detected during the survey effort, however, the riparian woodland on-site may provide suitable nesting habitat for this species and there is a known purple martin colony approximately 0.8 miles northeast of the project area (CDFW 2026). As such, this species may occur within the project area.

Pallid Bat

Pallid bats (*Antrozous pallidus*; SSC) range throughout the North American west, from southern British Columbia to central Mexico. They occur throughout California, except for high elevations, and are found in a variety of habitats, such as grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and mixed conifer forests but are most commonly found in dry habitats with rocky outcrops (Verts and Carraway 1998). Pallid bats will use a variety of roosts, such as caves, rock crevices, mines, trees, and buildings. They are year-round residents in their home range and hibernate during the winter (Vaughan and O'Shea 1976). These bats undergo daily torpor and are most active a couple of hours after sunset and shortly before sunrise. Mating occurs in the fall (October and February) and young are born between April and July. Pallid bats are sensitive to disturbance and will readily abandon roosting sites. This species was not detected during the survey effort, however, the woodland on-site may provide suitable roosting habitat for this species, and it may occur within the project area.

Southwestern Pond Turtle

Southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*, Federal Proposed Threatened and SSC) occurs from the Bay Area of California south along the coast to Baja California (Stebbins and McGinnis 2018). This species inhabits many types of permanent and ephemeral aquatic habitats, including sloughs, rivers, ponds, lakes, vernal pools, and marshes, as well as human-constructed water bodies such as irrigation ditches and impoundments that provide adequate basking sites (e.g., logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks), emergent vegetation, and underwater refugia (e.g., rocks or submerged vegetation) (Spinks et al. 2003). The turtles also spend significant time on land, frequently moving between aquatic and upland habitats to nest, aestivate, and overwinter. Nests are usually partially or completely concealed beneath soil, moss, detritus, and leaf and needle litter and located within 165 feet of the water's edge. Though, females have been observed moving overland more than 1,300 feet to find suitable nesting sites. Substantial population declines, largely due to habitat loss, streambed alteration, and fragmentation of aquatic and nesting habitats, have been observed throughout most of the species' range (Stebbins and McGinnis 2018, Bury and Germano 2008). The release of the more fecund pet red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) into aquatic environments is another perpetual threat to the species. This

species was not detected during the survey effort, however, Atascadero Creek and its banks may provide suitable aquatic and upland habitat for this species, and it may occur within the project area.

Northern California Legless Lizard

Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*; SSC) ranges from the northern San Joaquin Valley south through the inner and outer South Coast Ranges, with populations in the southern Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains, at elevations up to 5,900 feet (Nafis 2026). This species requires moist, sandy or loose loamy soils within coastal dune scrub, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, woodland, riparian, or forest habitats. It shelters in leaf litter and under bushes, rocks, or detritus like logs and driftwood. Relatively little is known about the specific behavior and ecology of this species, but it is thought to be a diurnal species that breeds between the months of March and July. It gives birth to live young in the early fall. Population declines have been attributed to agricultural development, sand mining, use of off-road recreational vehicles, and habitat loss through the spread of invasive, non-native vegetation such as iceplant (Zeiner et al. 1988-1990b). This species was not detected during the survey effort, however, the woodland on-site may provide suitable habitat for this species, and it may occur on-site.

California Red-legged Frog

California red-legged frog (CRLF; Federal Threatened and SSC) is known to occur from Mendocino County to Northern Baja California and eastward through the Northern Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills at elevations below 1,525 meters (5,000 feet). They require permanent or semi-permanent bodies of water such as lakes, streams, and ponds with plant cover for foraging and breeding. Reproduction occurs in aquatic habitat from late November to early April. Egg masses are laid in the water following breeding, often on emergent vegetation. Following metamorphosis, juvenile frogs may remain in the breeding ponds or disperse into uplands regardless of topography. CRLF have been documented dispersing over two miles from aquatic habitat. Dispersing frogs may seek refuge in small mammal burrows or soil fractures. Current threats include nonnative predators, such as bullfrogs and fishes, urban and agricultural development, and pesticide pollution (Nafis 2026). This species was not detected during the survey effort, however, Atascadero Creek and its banks may provide suitable aquatic and upland habitat for this species, and it may occur on-site. In addition, the project area is located within USFWS-designated critical habitat for the species.

Coast Range Newt

Coast Range newt (SSC) is found along the coast and coast range mountains in California from Monterey County south to San Diego County at elevations below 4,200 feet. This species may be found in habitats such as wet forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. Newts are terrestrial species which enter slow moving streams, side channels, or pools for aquatic breeding. Breeding may occur from late December through April. Females attach egg masses to submerged branches, vegetation, or rocks just below the surface of the water. Larvae metamorphosis and begin to live on land at the end of summer or early fall (Thompson et al. 2016). Coast Range newts have suffered declines from human-caused habitat loss and degradation, including breeding ponds, and the introduction of nonnative predators, such as bullfrogs, mosquito fish, and crayfish (Nafis 2026). Atascadero Creek and its banks provide suitable aquatic and upland habitat for this species, and it was observed on-site during the March survey (see Attachment E – CNDDDB Form).

Steelhead - South/Central California Coast DPS

South/Central California Coast DPS (distinct population segment) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Federal Threatened and SSC) include runs from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa

Maria River (NMFS 2013 and 2016). These fish live in the ocean as adults but migrate to freshwater streams or creeks that have cool, flowing water, access to the ocean, and available food sources for spawning. Adults in San Luis Obispo County enter freshwater systems for spawning from December to March, depending on specific stream conditions. Specific habitat requirements for south-central California coast steelhead vary by life stage. In general, the crucial requirements of steelhead habitat include adequate substrate, water quality, water quantity, water temperature, water velocity, and cover from riparian vegetation. This distinct population segment of steelhead tends to utilize perennial streams dominated by woody debris with relatively stable water flows. This species was not detected during the survey effort, however, Atascadero Creek may provide suitable aquatic habitat for this species, and it may occur on-site.

Nesting Birds

In addition to species protected by the state or federal Endangered Species Acts, all native avian species are protected by state and federal legislature, most notably the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the CDFW Fish and Game Code. Collectively, these and other international regulations make it unlawful to collect, sell, pursue, hunt, or kill native migratory birds, their eggs, nests, or any parts thereof.

Avian species can be expected to occur within and adjacent to the BSA during all seasons and throughout the proposed project. The potential to encounter and disrupt these species is highest during the nesting season (i.e., February 1 through August 31), when nests are likely to be active, and eggs and young are present. Mature trees and shrubs provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat for many species. No special-status birds were observed during the March 2026 survey. However, suitable nesting habitat is within the BSA area for a variety of common and special-status passerines and raptors during the typical nesting period (February 1 through August 31).

Jurisdictional Delineation

According to USGS topographic maps (USGS 2026) and the NWI (USFWS 2026b), coupled with field verification during the jurisdictional assessment, Atascadero Creek was identified within the BSA. Atascadero Creek generally flows southwest–northeast before converging with the Salinas River approximately 3.6 miles northeast of the BSA. Atascadero Creek is intermittent in nature and is seasonally dry within the BSA. Atascadero Creek is vegetated by a dominance of California sycamore, coast live oak, and arroyo willow in the overstory. The understory of this vegetation community includes deerweed, California manroot, California tule pea and California mugwort. Within the BSA, Atascadero Creek exhibits a well-defined bed and bank and evidence of an OHWM. Water was present at the time of the March survey.

Based on physical and hydrological indicators within the BSA, Atascadero Creek exhibits well defined bed and banks. As such, Atascadero Creek is likely considered Waters of the State under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB. Based on evidence of an OHWM and connectivity to traditionally navigable waters (i.e., Pacific Ocean via the Salinas River), Atascadero Creek is likely also considered Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the USACE (see Attachment A – Figure A-4: Jurisdictional Delineation).

IMPACTS

Special-status Botanical Species and Sensitive Vegetation Communities

No special-status botanical species were detected during the March and May 2026 surveys. The BSA was determined to have suitable habitat for Salinas milkvetch, Lemmon’s jewelflower, San Benito poppy, Salinas Valley goldfields, fragrant bushmallow, Michael’s rein-orchid, Santa Lucia gooseberry, as well as

native oak trees. Based on a lack of detection during the appropriately timed surveys, no special-status plants are expected to occur. No oak tree impacts are anticipated to occur.

One CDFW Sensitive Natural Community, California sycamore–coast live oak riparian woodland, was identified within the BSA. The project as proposed is anticipated to impact 13 red willows (*Salix laevigata*) and three arroyo willows. The Avoidance and Minimization Measures provided below are intended to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Special-status Wildlife Species

Based on the scope of work, which includes replacing an existing pipeline segment and associated concrete hold-downs in the channel and banks of Atascadero Creek, the potential to impact special-status wildlife species is considered low. Direct and indirect impacts could occur to common and special-status wildlife species. Specifically, if present, the proposed project could impact purple martin, pallid bat, southwestern pond turtle, Northern California legless lizard, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, steelhead, and migratory nesting birds. If special-status species are present at the time of construction, they may be vulnerable to vehicle strikes and crushing from equipment. Indirect impacts may occur by deterring movement patterns of wildlife caused by construction disturbances. Indirect impacts to aquatic species could also result from erosion, sedimentation, and/or discharges of hazardous materials from construction equipment (e.g., fuel, hydraulic fluids, and oil, etc.).

If project activities are planned to occur during the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1 through August 31), there is a potential for direct and indirect impacts to migratory nesting and special-status birds. Construction-related activities can destroy nests, remove nesting habitat, or cause disturbance that may lead to nest failure or otherwise harass nesting, resident, or transient birds. The Avoidance and Minimization Measures provided below are intended to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Jurisdictional Waters

Temporary and permanent impacts to the channel and banks of Atascadero Creek are anticipated during the project. Table 1 below provides jurisdictional impacts for the stream channel and banks of Atascadero Creek. In addition, the project will result in impacts to 16 riparian trees. Table 2 below provides riparian tree impacts for the project. Staging areas are located above top of bank and outside the limits of the riparian extent. The project will occur during dry conditions and no equipment or personnel will enter surface water. Following project completion, the site will be restored to existing contours and stabilized. The Avoidance and Minimization Measures provided below are intended to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Table 1. Jurisdictional Impacts to Atascadero Creek

Aquatic Resource Type ¹	Temporary Impact		Permanent Impacts	
	Acre	Linear Feet	Acre	Linear Feet
Stream Channel ²	0.0068	100	0.0006	9
Bank ³	0.0172	250	0.0009	8
Total	0.0240	350	0.0015	17

¹Waters of the U.S. include the stream channel. Waters of the state include the stream channel and bank combined.

²Stream channel is identified as the limits of OHWM.

³Bank is identified as the limits between the OHWM and the top of bank.

Table 2. Riparian Tree Impacts

Number of Individuals	Species	Diameter Breast Height (DBH) in inches	Number of Stems	Impact Type
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	4.5	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	6	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	5.5	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	9	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	6	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	6	1	Removal
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	1-2	5	Trim
1	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	1-2	10	Trim
5	Red willow (<i>Salix laevigata</i>)	1-2	50+	Trim
3	Arroyo willow (<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>)	1-5	20	Trim

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) are recommended for the protection of the jurisdictional features and sensitive biological resources, if present, during project construction:

1. An environmental awareness training shall be presented to all construction personnel by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any project activities. The training shall include color photographs and a description of the ecology of all special-status species known or with potential to occur, as well as other sensitive resources requiring avoidance during construction. The training shall also include a description of protection measures required by discretionary permits, an overview of the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and implications of noncompliance with these regulations. This will include an overview of the required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. A sign-in sheet with the name and signature of the qualified biologist who presented the training, and the names and signatures of the environmental awareness trainees will be kept. A fact sheet conveying the information provided in the environmental awareness training will be provided to all project personnel.
2. Within 30 days of commencement of tree removal activities, a focused survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if roosting bats are present in trees scheduled for removal. The survey shall include complete visual inspection and evaluation of large trees for potential roosts. An acoustic survey combined with a visual bat emergence survey shall be conducted. If a bat roost is located in the planned disturbance area and cannot be avoided, a Bat Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (BHMMP) shall be prepared, specific to the observed conditions. The BHMMP shall contain specific details regarding exclusion efforts for the existing roosting habitat to be removed, details on the type and placement of alternative roosting habitat, and protection measures for roost habitat to remain if feasible. If a maternity colony is identified during the breeding season (generally April–October) and it cannot be avoided, the qualified biologist shall consult with the CDFW for guidance and shall implement all requirements and recommendations provided by the CDFW.
3. To protect steelhead, no work will occur during active stream flow conditions, and no diversion will be required for the proposed project.

4. A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-activity survey immediately prior to the start of initial ground disturbance to ensure any sensitive wildlife species are not within the work area. If Northern California legless lizard or Coast Range newt are found in the project area, a qualified biologist will relocate the individual to nearby suitable habitat outside of the work area. If southwestern pond turtle is found within the work area, they shall be allowed to leave the area on their own volition. If necessary, resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance.
5. If project activities are expected to occur during the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1 – August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be completed by a qualified biologist within one week prior to project initiation. Surveys for raptors shall be conducted within a 250-foot radius of the project site. If any active non-listed raptor nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be designated, and a no-work buffer of 250 feet shall be established until the young have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest tree or parental care, or the nest is no longer active; reduced buffers may be appropriate and resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance. Surveys for other non-listed avian species shall be conducted within a 50-foot radius of the project site. If any active nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be protected with an appropriate work buffer and monitored by a qualified biologist. All activity will remain outside of the designated buffers until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or that proposed construction activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young. If work activities are deemed to not be a threat to a given nest within a buffer zone, a qualified biologist may monitor the nest during work to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed (e.g., showing signs of stress or changes in behavior as a result of work activity). If any active nests of listed, fully protected, or otherwise special-status bird species are detected during the surveys, the appropriate agency shall be contacted for guidance on how to proceed.

California Red-Legged Frog AMMs

1. A USFWS-approved biologist (and CDFW-authorized, if required) shall conduct preconstruction clearance surveys within all work areas and a minimum 100-foot buffer no more than 24 hours prior to the start of initial ground disturbance and prior to any nuisance dewatering activities. Clearance surveys shall consist of both a daytime survey and a nighttime survey conducted during suitable environmental conditions (e.g., ambient temperatures generally above 50°F, wind speeds less than approximately 5 miles per hour, and absence of heavy precipitation), when CRLF are most likely to be active and detectable.

Daytime surveys shall focus on identifying suitable aquatic and upland refugia, including ponded nuisance water, saturated soils, vegetated margins, small mammal burrows, root wads, and debris. Nighttime surveys shall be conducted using visual encounter survey methods with high-intensity directional lighting capable of detecting amphibian eyeshine. Acceptable lighting shall include devices such as Wheat lamps, Nite Lights, or sealed-beam lights that produce illumination sufficient for eyeshine detection but do not exceed approximately 100,000 candlepower. The light source shall be held at or near the observer's eye level to maximize detection of eyeshine, and binoculars shall be used in conjunction with the light to improve detection and identification of individuals.

If CRLF are detected, work shall not commence until the individual(s) have either voluntarily moved out of the work area or have been relocated in accordance with AMM-CRLF-3 by an authorized biologist. Clearance surveys shall be repeated if work is delayed more than 24 hours or if site conditions change (e.g., precipitation resulting in new ponding or increased habitat suitability).

2. A qualified biologist shall be present during initial ground disturbance and vegetation removal. The biologist shall monitor for CRLF and ensure implementation of all avoidance and

minimization measures. The biologist shall have authority to stop work if CRLF are observed within or adjacent to the work area. If CRLF are observed during construction, work shall cease in the immediate vicinity until the individual has moved away on its own or has been relocated by an authorized biologist.

3. Capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist authorized pursuant to a USFWS Biological Opinion, Section 10 permit, or other applicable federal authorization, and in coordination with CDFW, as appropriate. Qualified biologists may assist with capture and relocation under the direct supervision of the USFWS-approved biologist, who shall remain responsible for ensuring all activities are conducted in accordance with permit conditions and applicable agency protocols. Relocation shall be minimized to the extent practicable and shall only occur when necessary to prevent injury or mortality. Capture methods shall be limited to hand capture or dip nets and shall avoid excessive handling. Individuals shall be relocated to suitable habitat outside the impact area within the same watershed, where feasible, and in locations that provide appropriate cover, moisture, and connectivity to aquatic habitat. Relocation sites shall be identified in advance. All capture and relocation activities shall be documented, including date, number of individuals, life stage, condition, and release location.
4. Dewatering of nuisance water shall be conducted in accordance with USFWS and CDFW protocols to avoid take of CRLF and minimize impacts to aquatic habitat. Prior to dewatering, a qualified biologist shall survey all standing water and remove any CRLF. Dewatering shall be conducted gradually to allow undetected individuals to disperse. Water levels shall be reduced incrementally rather than rapidly drained. Pump intakes shall be screened with mesh no larger than 1/8 inch (3.2 millimeters) and shall be placed within a screened enclosure (e.g., perforated bucket or intake cage) to prevent entrainment and impingement. Pumps shall be operated in a manner that avoids sudden drawdown or stranding of aquatic organisms. Dewatering shall proceed directionally (e.g., from upstream to downstream or from one side of the feature to the other) to avoid isolating individuals. Discharge water shall be released to stable upland or vegetated areas and shall not cause erosion, sedimentation, or degradation of aquatic habitat. Energy dissipation devices shall be used where necessary.
5. Work shall be conducted during the dry season (generally May through October) to minimize the likelihood of CRLF occupying the work area. No work shall occur during or within 24 hours of precipitation events that result in ponding or surface flow within the project area. If rainfall occurs and creates suitable habitat conditions within the work area, construction activities shall be halted and a qualified biologist shall reassess the site and conduct clearance surveys prior to resumption of work.
6. Any holes or trenches will be sloped to allow for wildlife to escape. The qualified biological monitor will inspect all holes and trenches each morning. If the qualified biological monitor finds a California red-legged frog in a hole or trench, capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist.
7. All biologists engaged in capture/relocation activities should follow the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice to avoid or minimize the potential to spread pathogens, such as chytrid fungus.
8. Any California red-legged frogs captured and relocated should be handled for as short a time as possible, and transported to relocation sites as quickly as possible.

9. Biologists should document the location(s) to where California red-legged frogs are relocated, with a description of the habitat and whether any other California red-legged frogs are already present.
10. Special attention should be given to the voids proposed for filling as California red-legged frog may seek cover/refuge in those places.
11. A qualified biologist will permanently remove any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs, crayfish, and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current>).
12. All work performed within jurisdictional waters shall be completed in a manner that minimizes impacts to beneficial uses and habitat. Measures shall be employed to minimize land disturbances that will adversely impact the water quality of jurisdictional waters. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete project implementation.
13. All trash should be covered and/or taken off site to minimize attraction of predators that may feed on special-status species.
14. All refueling and equipment maintenance should be conducted at least 50 feet away from waterbodies to avoid accidental contamination.
15. Any graded or disturbed areas will be restored to pre-project contours.
16. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be on-site prior to the start of project activities and kept on-site at all times so they are immediately available for installation in anticipation of rain events.
17. Erosion and sediment control measures and other construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with all specifications governing their proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance.
18. Erosion control measures such as silt fences and fiber rolls shall be maintained on a daily basis during project activities.
19. There shall be a designated staging area for vehicle fueling and storage at least 50 feet away from any water body, in a location where fluids or accidental discharges cannot flow into waterways. A spill plan and appropriate spill control and clean up materials (e.g., oil absorbent pads) shall be on-site in case spills occur.
20. All vehicles, equipment, materials, and any temporary BMPs no longer needed shall be removed from the site upon completion of the project.
21. Any stockpile(s) shall be kept a minimum of 50 feet from the banks of any water body to prevent material from re-entering a water body. At no time shall any stockpiles, waste piles, or debris associated with this project be located within surface water, or where it can be washed back into surface water. All stockpiled debris shall be covered and surrounded with a linear sediment barrier.

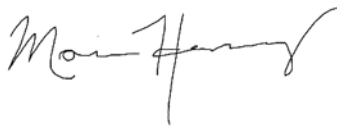
CONCLUSION

The proposed project includes replacing 350 feet of water pipeline and four concrete hold-downs in Atascadero Creek. No special-status botanical species were observed during appropriately timed surveys, and as such no special-status botanical species are expected to occur. The proposed project is anticipated to impact 16 riparian trees. Suitable habitat is present for special-status wildlife including purple martin,

pallid bat, southwestern pond turtle, Northern California legless lizard, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, steelhead, and migratory nesting birds. Direct and indirect impacts to special-status wildlife species may occur if they are present on-site at the time of construction. Temporary and permanent impact to Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State are expected to occur. Based on the jurisdictional delineation and project location, it is anticipated that project activities will require notification to CDFW pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1602, a Pre-Construction Notification pursuant to Nationwide Permit 58, and RWQCB 401 Water Quality Certification Notice of Intent. Direct and indirect impacts to resources on-site will be avoided and/or reduced with implementation of the recommended avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided, please contact me at Monica.Hemenez@swca.com or (510) 414-3178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica Hemenez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Monica Hemenez
Associate Project Wildlife Biologist

Attachment A – Figures
Attachment B – Representative Site Photographs
Attachment C – Regionally Occurring Special-status Species
Attachment D – Botanical and Wildlife Species Observed
Attachment E – CNDDDB Form

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ATTACHMENT A

Figures

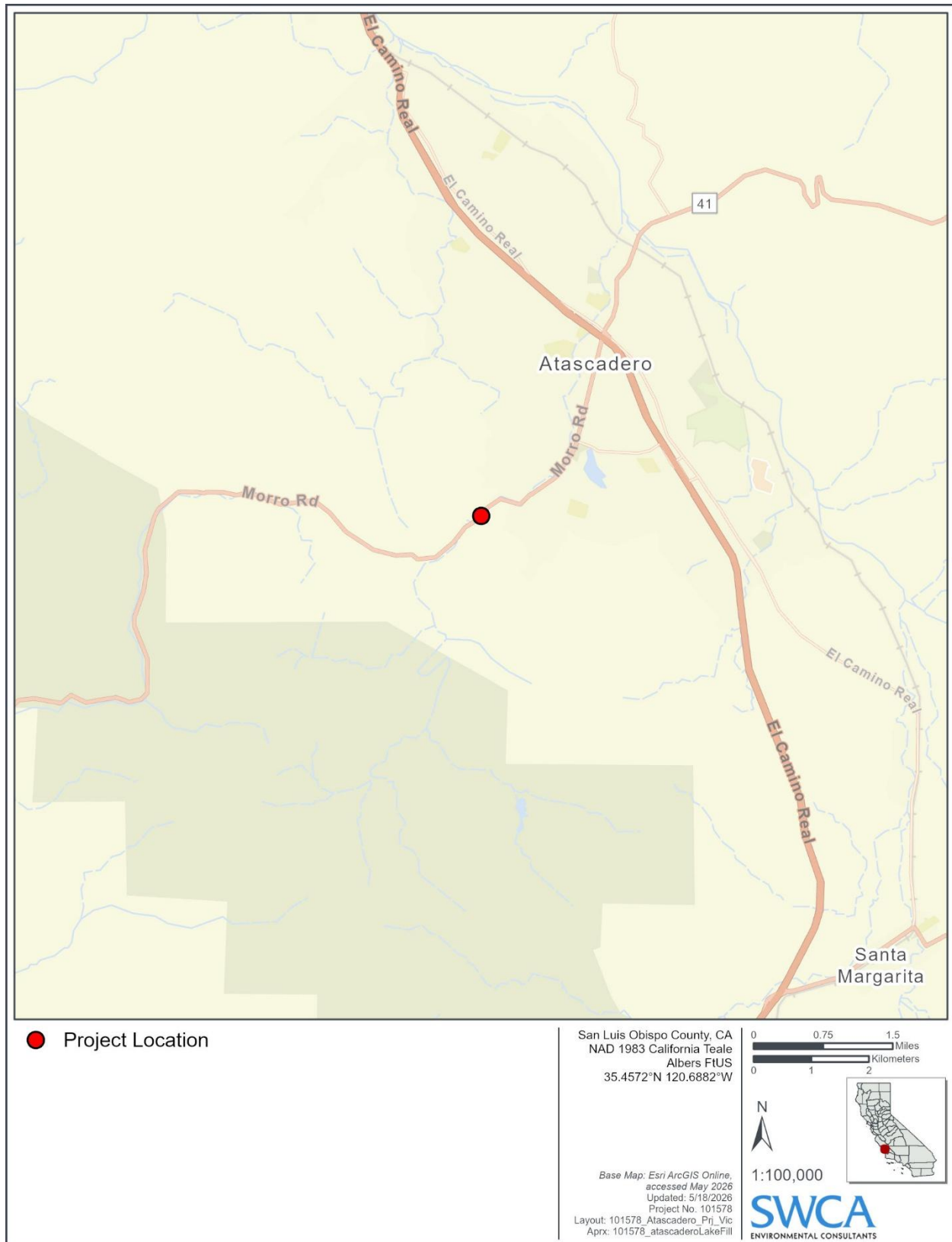


Figure A-1. Project Vicinity.

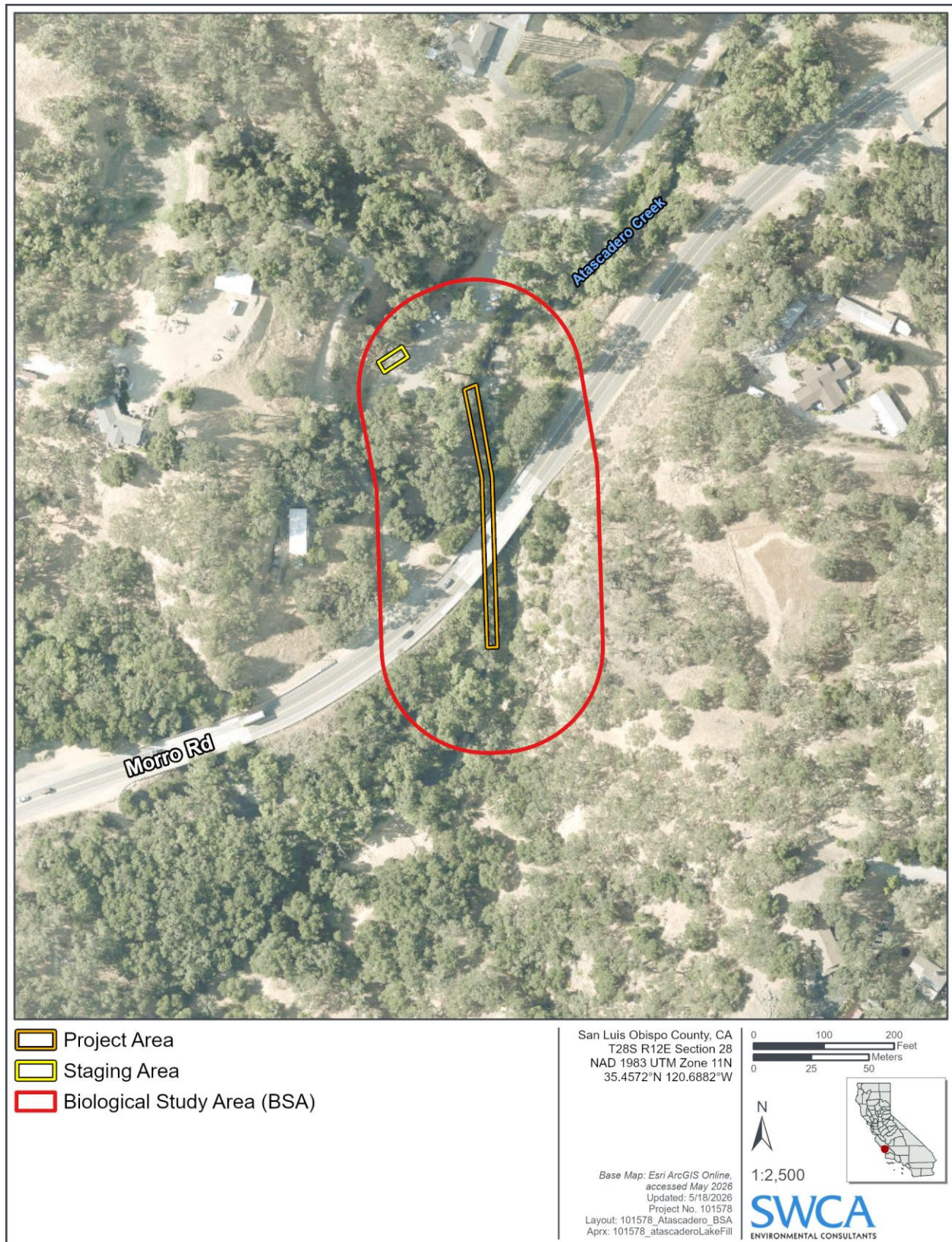


Figure A-2: BSA

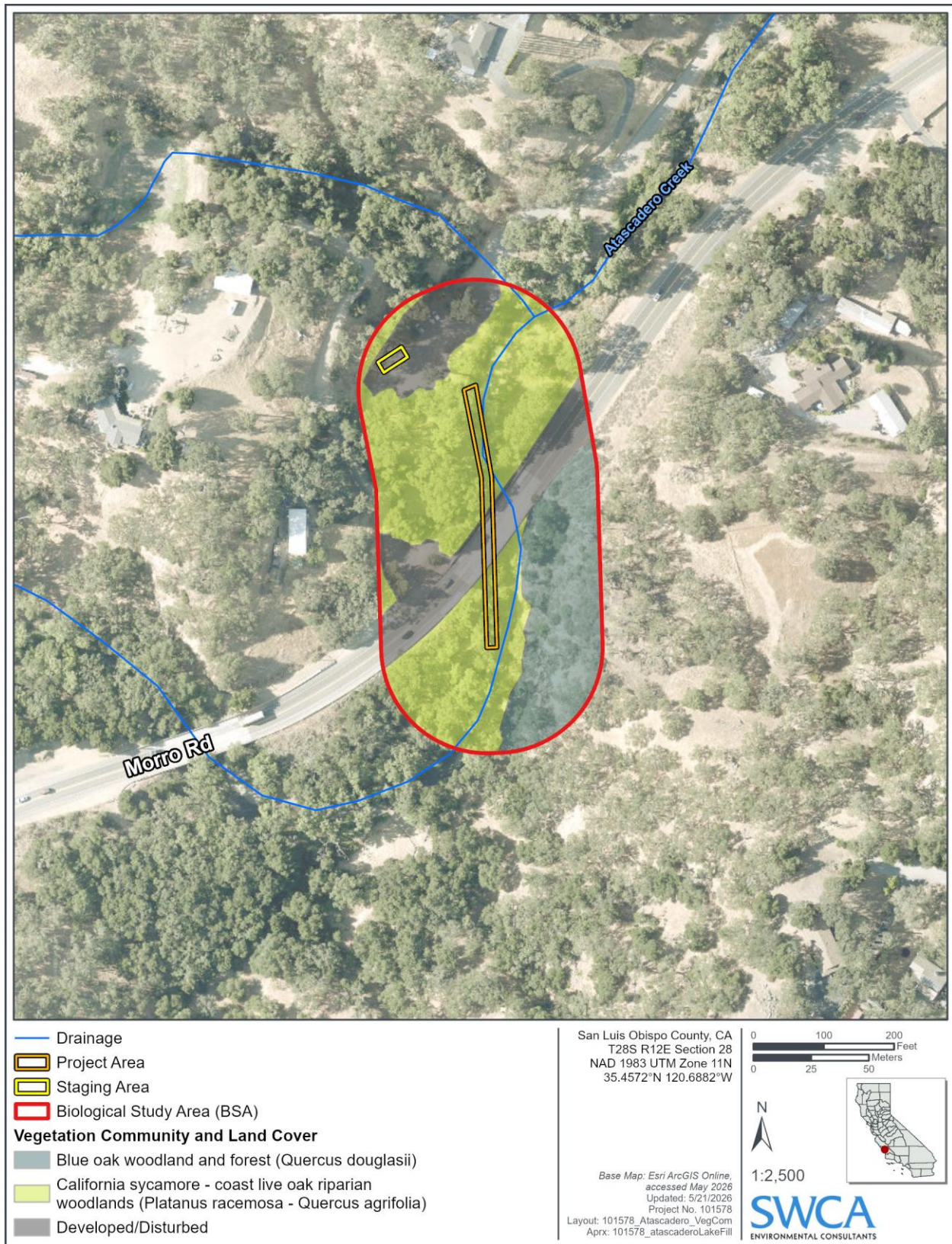


Figure A-3: Vegetation and Land Cover Types

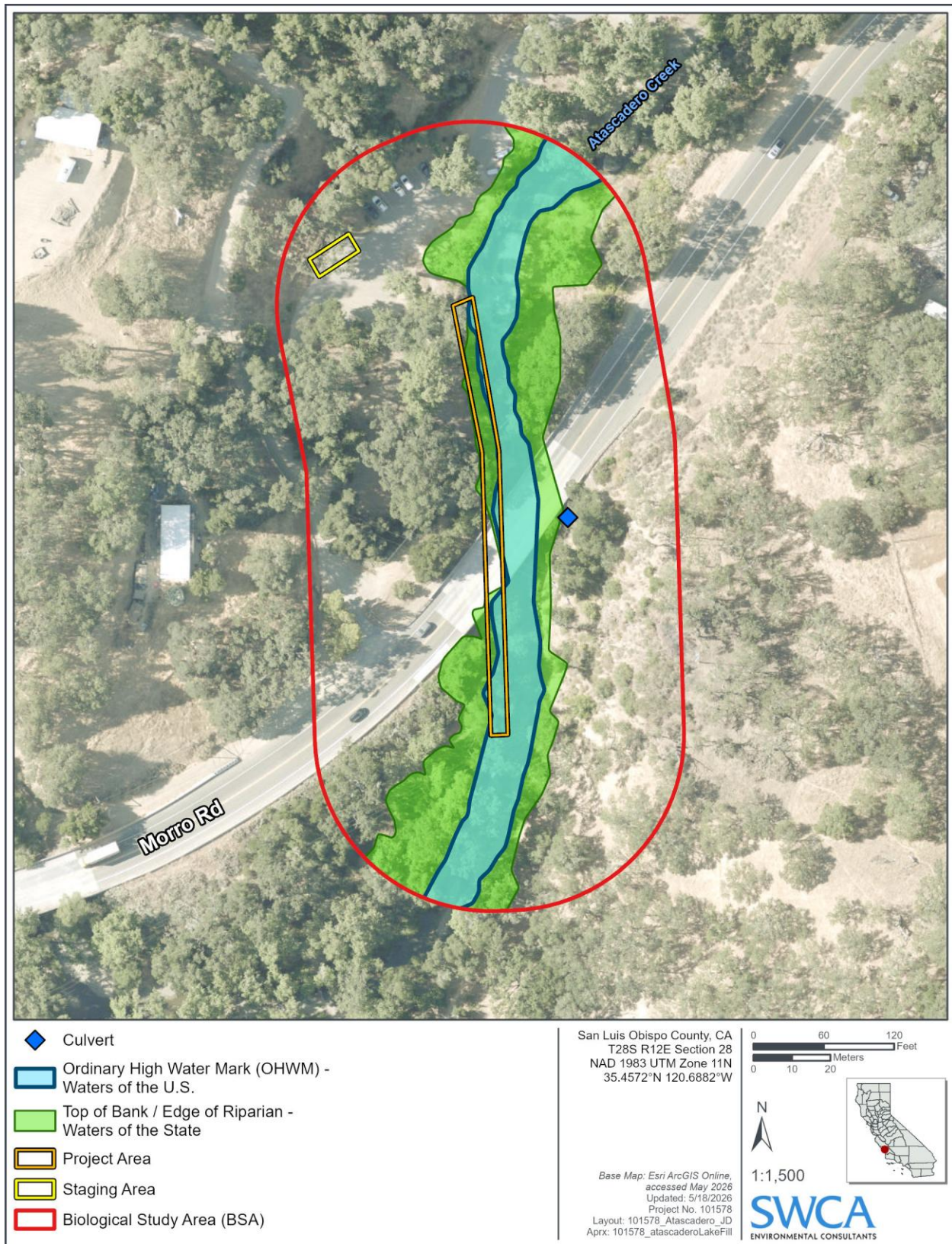


Figure A-4: Jurisdictional Delineation

ATTACHMENT B

Representative Site Photographs



Photo 1. View south of intake structure in Atascadero Creek (03-02-2026).



Photo 2. View east of concrete hold-down on banks of Atascadero Creek (03-02-2026).



Photo 3. View east of concrete hold-down and exposed pipe in Atascadero Creek (03-02-2026).



Photo 4. View south of project area below CA Highway 41 bridge (03-02-2026).



Photo 5. View south of intake structure above top of bank of Atascadero Creek (03-02-2026).



Photo 6. View west of staging area at Three Bridges Oak Preserve parking area (03-02-2026).

ATTACHMENT C

Regionally Occurring Special-Status Species

Table C-1. Special-Status Plant Species Investigated for Potential Occurrence

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Abronia maritima</i> Red sand verberna	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	February– October	Coastal dunes. Elevation: 0–100 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Agrostis hooveri</i> Hoover's bent grass	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–August	Dry, usually sandy soils in open chaparral, oak woodland, and grassland. Elevation: <600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Amsinckia douglasiana</i> Douglas' fiddleneck	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March–June	Unstable shaly sedimentary slopes. Elevation: 100–1,600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable shale habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos luciana</i> Santa Lucia manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	January–March	Shale outcrops, slopes, upland chaparral near coast. Elevation: 100–800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos morroensis</i> Morro manzanita	FT / SCE / 1B.1	January–March	Stabilized sand dunes, sandstones, and chaparral. Elevation: < 200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos obispoensis</i> Bishop manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	February–March	Rocky, generally serpentine soils in chaparral, woodland, and forest near the coast. Elevation: 60–950 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos osoensis</i> Oso manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	December– February	Dacite (volcanic) outcrops, chaparral. Elevation: 50 – 375 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos pechoensis</i> Pecho manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	January–March	Shale outcrops, chaparral, coniferous forest. Elevation: < 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arctostaphylos pilosula</i> Santa Margarita manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	December– March	Shale outcrops, slopes, chaparral. Elevation: 30–1,250 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Arctostaphylos tomentosa</i> ssp. <i>daciticola</i> Dacite manzanita	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	December– March	Chaparral. Elevation: 200 – 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> Marsh sandwort	FE / SE / CRPR 1B.1	May–August	Wet meadows, marshes. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Aspidotis carlotta-halliae</i> Carlotta Hall's lace fern	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	January– December	Serpentine slopes, crevices, outcrops. Elevation: 100–1,400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i> Miles' milk-vetch	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–May	Grassy areas near the coast, clay soils in coastal scrub. Elevation: <400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Astragalus macrodon</i> Salinas milkvetch	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	April–June	Eroded pale shales or sandstone, serpentine alluvium. Elevation: 200–1,500 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during out-of-season survey.
<i>Astragalus nuttallii</i> var. <i>nuttallii</i> Ocean bluff milk-vetch	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	Year–round	Rock, sandy areas, bluffs. Elevation: <250 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's saltbush	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–October	Alkaline or clay soils, open sites, scrub, coastal bluff scrub. Elevation: < 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Calandrinia breweri</i> Brewer's calandrinia	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	February–May	Sandy to loamy soil, disturbed sites, burns. Elevation: < 1,200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>clavatus</i> Cub-haired mariposa lily	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	April–June	Generally serpentine. Elevation: <1,300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Calochortus obispoensis</i> San Luis Obispo mariposa lily	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–June	Dry serpentine, generally open chaparral. Elevation: 100–500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Calochortus simulans</i> La Panza mariposa lily	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.3	May–July	Sand (often granitic), grassland, and yellow pine forest. Elevation: <1,100 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Calycadenia villosa</i> Dwarf calycadenia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	May–September	Dry, rocky hills, ridges, grassland, openings in foothill woodland. Elevation: 250–850 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Calystegia subacaulis</i> ssp. <i>episcopalis</i> Cambria morning-glory	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March–July	Dry, open scrub, woodland. Elevation: <500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Camissoniopsis hardhamiae</i> Hardham's evening-primrose	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–May	Sandy soil, limestone, disturbed oak woodland. Elevation: 240–600 m..	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Carex obispoensis</i> San Luis Obispo sedge	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–June	Springs, streamsides in chaparral, generally on serpentine. Elevation: <800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Castilleja densiflora</i> ssp. <i>obispoensis</i> San Luis Obispo owl's-clover	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–June	Coastal grassland. Elevation: <400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i> Lemmon's jewelflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–May	Grassland, chaparral, and scrub. Elevation: 80–1,100 m.	No / Yes	Marginal Suitable Conditions Present. Marginal suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Ceanothus cuneatus</i> var. <i>fascicularis</i> Lompoc ceanothus	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	February–May	Sandy substrates, coastal chaparral. Elevation: <275 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i> var. <i>obispoensis</i> San Luis Obispo ceanothus	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	January–April	Dacite-derived soils, canyon, chaparral, coastal scrub, oak woodland. Elevation: 140 – 230 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>congdonii</i> Congdon's tarplant	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	June–October	Terraces, swales, floodplains, grassland, disturbed sites. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>blancheae</i> Island mountain-mahogany	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–April	Chaparral. Elevation: < 600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chenopodium littoreum</i> Coastal goosefoot	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	June–October	Generally sandy soils, dunes. Elevation: < 40 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i> var. <i>minus</i> Dwarf soaproot	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–June	Serpentine outcrops in chaparral. Elevation: < 750 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i> Point Reyes salty bird's-beak	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	June–October	Coastal salt marsh. Elevation: < 10 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chorizanthe aphanantha</i> Irish Hills spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	April–June	Chaparral edges and openings, coastal scrub. Elevation: 100 – 370 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chorizanthe breweri</i> Brewer's spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.3	March–July	Gravel or rocks. Elevation: 60–800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chorizanthe douglasii</i> Douglas' spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	April–July	Sand or gravel associated with chaparral, scrub, woodland, grassland, and forest habitats. Elevation: 300–1,600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Chorizanthe palmeri</i> Palmer's spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	May–August	Serpentine soil associated with chaparral, scrub, grassland, and woodland habitats. Elevation: 60–700 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chorizanthe rectispina</i> Straight-awned spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.3	May–July	Sand or gravel associated with scrub, chaparral, and woodland habitats. Elevation: 200–600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Chorizanthe ventricose</i> Potbellied spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	May–September	Serpentine. Elevation: 500 – 1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>obispoense</i> Chorro Creek bog thistle	FE / SE/ CRPR 1B.2	April–October	Serpentine seeps and streams. Elevation: <350 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Cirsium occidentale</i> var. <i>lucianum</i> Cuesta Ridge thistle	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–July	Chaparral, woodland or forest openings, often on serpentine. Elevation: 500–750 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. BSA outside of species typical elevation range; species not observed during survey.
<i>Clarkia speciosa</i> ssp. <i>immaculata</i> Pismo clarkie	FE / SR / CRPR 1B.1	May–July	Sandy coastal hills. Elevation: < 100 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Clinopodium mimuloides</i> Monkey-flower savory	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	June–October	Moist places, streambanks, chaparral, woodland. Elevation: 400 – 1,800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. BSA outside of species typical elevational range; species not observed during survey.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i> Paniculate tarplant	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	May–November	Grassland, open chaparral and woodland, disturbed areas, often in sandy soils. Elevation: <1,320 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> Dune larkspur	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–May	Coastal chaparral, sand. Elevation: <200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>eastwoodiae</i> Eastwood's larkspur	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–May	Coastal chaparral and grassland on serpentine. Elevation: 100–500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i> Umbrella larkspur	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.3	April–June	Moist oak forest. Elevation: 400–1,600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. BSA outside of species typical elevational range; species not observed during survey.
<i>Dithyrea maritima</i> Beach spectaclepod	-- / ST / 1B.1	March–August	Seashores, coastal sand dunes. Elevation: < 50 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>bettinae</i> Betty's dudleya	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–June	Rocky outcrops in serpentine grassland. Elevation: 50–180 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>murina</i> Mouse-gray dudleya	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.3	May–June	Serpentine outcrops. Elevation: 120–300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i> Blochman's dudleya	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	April–June	Open, rocky slopes, often serpentine or clay- dominated. Elevation: <450 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Eleocharis parvula</i> Small spikerush	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	Late winter–Fall	Brackish wet soil, coastal. Elevation: < 50 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Eriastrum luteum</i> Yellow-flowered eriastrum	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–June	Drying slopes, in sandy or gravelly soil associated with chaparral or woodland. Elevation: <1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Erigeron blochmaniae</i> Blochman's leafy daisy	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	July–October	Sand dunes and hills. Elevation: <70 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Erigeron sanctarum</i> Saints' daisy	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March–June	Sandy sites, coastal scrub or woodland. Elevation: < 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Eriodictyon altissimum</i> Indian Knob mountainbalm	FE / SE / CRPR 1B.1	March–June	Sandstone ridges, chaparral. Elevation: < 270 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i> Hoover's button-celery	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	July	Vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, occasionally alkaline. Elevation: < 50 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i> var. <i>lompocense</i> San Luis Obispo wallflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March– September	Open areas, alpine, deserts, woodland, sandy areas, chaparral. Elevation: < 4000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Erysimum suffrutescens</i> Suffrutescent wallflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	December– August	Stabilized coastal sand dunes, coastal scrub. Elevation: <150 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Erythranthe serpentinicola</i> Irish Hills monkeyflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	February–May	Chaparral openings, meadows and seeps, typically on serpentine soils. Elevation: 200 – 1200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Eschscholzia hypocoides</i> San Benito poppy	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–June	Grassy areas in woodland, chaparral. Often on serpentine soils. Elevation: 200–1,600 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Extriplex joaquinana</i> San Joaquin spearscale	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–September	Alkaline soils. Elevation: <350 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> Stinkbells	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March–June	Clay (generally serpentine) banks, depressions. Elevation: <500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i> Ojai fritillary	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	February–May	Rocky slopes, river basins. Elevation: 300 – 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable rocky slope habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Galium clifftonsmithii</i> Santa Barbara bedstraw	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	May–July	Light shade, coastal canyons, dry banks, and chaparral. Elevation: 200 – 1,220 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Gilia tenuiflora</i> ssp. <i>amplifaucalis</i> Trumpet-throated gilia	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–April	Sandy soil of dry creeks, floodplains, slopes. Elevation: 39 – 900 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable sandy habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> Mesa horkelia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	March–July	Dry, sandy, coastal chaparral. Elevation: 70 – 870 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>sericea</i> Kellogg's horkelia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	April–August	Old dunes, coastal sandhills. Elevation: < 200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Horkelia yadonii</i> Santa Lucia horkelia	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	June–September	Sandy meadow edges, seasonal streambeds in chaparral or foothill-pine woodland. Elevation: 350 – 1,900 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> Southwestern spiny rush	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	June–August	Moist saline places, salt marshes, alkaline seeps. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–August	Wet, sandy soils of seeps, meadows, vernal pools, streams, roadsides. Elevation: 300 – 1,900 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Lasthenia californica</i> ssp. <i>macrantha</i> Perennial goldfields	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	Year-round (mostly May– August)	Grassland, dunes along immediate coast. Elevation: < 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	April–May	Saline places, vernal pools. Elevation: < 1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Lasthenia leptalea</i> Salinas Valley goldfields	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	February–May	Openings in woodland. Elevation: < 500 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Layia erubescens</i> Blushing layia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	February–June	Loose, fine sand of backdunes, sandhills. Elevation: 9 – 250 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Layia jonesii</i> Jones' layia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–May	Open serpentine or clayey slopes. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Leptosiphon grandiflorus</i> Large-flowered leptosiphon	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	April–August	Open, grassy flats, generally sandy soil. Elevation: < 1,200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Lessingia tenuis</i> Spring lessingia	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	May–July	Openings in chaparral, woodland. Elevation: 50–2,200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Lomatium parvifolium</i> Small-leaved lomatium	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	February–May	Pine woodland, serpentine outcrops. Elevation: 70–150 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Lupinus ludovicianus</i> San Luis Obispo County lupine	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–July	Open, grassy areas, on limestone, in oak woodland. Elevation: 50 – 500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Malacothamnus jonesii</i> var. <i>jonesii</i> Jones's bush-mallow	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–May	Open chaparral in foothill woodland. Elevation: 250–830 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Malacothamnus jonesii</i> var. <i>niveus</i> Fragrant-snow bushmallow	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	May–June	Early-recovering post burn woody vegetation, edges of openings, some plants occasionally persisting into more mature vegetation stages. Elevation: 290-1050 m	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during out-of-season survey.
<i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> Cambria bushmallow	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–August	Interior valleys foothills. Elevation: 5 – 815 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Meconella oregana</i> Oregon meconella	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	March–April	Shaded canyons along the coast. Elevation: <1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Monardella palmeri</i> Palmer's monardella	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	June–August	Chaparral, forest, on serpentine. Elevation: 200–800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i> Southern curly-leaved monardella	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–September	Sandy soils, coastal strand, dune and sagebrush scrub, coastal chaparral and oak woodland. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Mucronea californica</i> California spineflower	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	March–August	Sand. Elevation: < 1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Muhlenbergia utilis</i> Aparejo grass	-- / -- / CRPR 2B.2	October–March	Wet sites along streams and ponds. Elevation: 250 – 1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> Spreading navarretia	FT / -- / CRPR 1B.1	April–June	Vernal pools, ditches. Elevation: 30 – 1,300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Navarretia nigelliformis</i> ssp. <i>radians</i> Shining navarretia	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	May–July	Vernal pools, clay depressions. Elevation: 150–1,000 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>denudata</i> Coast woolly-heads	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–August	Beaches. Elevation: < 100 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Perideridia pringlei</i> Adobe yampah	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	April–July	Grassy slopes, serpentine outcrops. Elevation: 300 – 1,800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Piperia michaelii</i> Michael's rein orchid	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	April–August	Generally dry sites, coastal scrub, woodland, mixed-evergreen or closed-cone-pine forest. Elevation: <700 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during out-of-season survey.
<i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i> Hooked popcornflower	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–May	Chaparral, canyon sides, rocky outcrops; ± fire follower. Elevation: 300–600 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Poa diaboli</i> Diablo Canyon blue grass	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	March–April	Thin soils on Edna shale slopes, upper coastal scrub, live-oak woodland, Bishop-pine forest, near coast. Elevation: 120 – 400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Prunus fasciculata</i> var. <i>punctata</i> Sand almond	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–April	Sandy soils, scrubland, oak woodland. Elevation: < 200 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Ribes sericeum</i> Santa Lucia gooseberry	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	December–April	Forest openings, coastal scrub, streamside thickets. Elevation: 180 – 800 m.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during out-of-season survey.
<i>Sanicula hoffmanii</i> Hoffmann's sanicle	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	March–May	Shrubby coastal hills, pine woodland. Elevation: <500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Sanicula maritima</i> Adobe sanicle	-- / SR / CRPR 1B.1	April–May	Coastal, grassy, open wet meadows, ravines. Elevation: ±150 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Scientific / Common Name ¹	Listing Status ² Federal / State / CNPS	Blooming Period ³	Habitat Type ³	Observed / Habitat Present? ⁴	Comments
<i>Schoenoplectus saximontanus</i> Rocky Mountain bulrush	-- / -- / CRPR 2B.1	March–October	Freshwater edges, ponds, and ditch margins. Elevation: 45 – 720 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i> Chaparral ragwort	-- / -- / CRPR 2B.2	January–May	Alkaline flats, dry open rocky areas. Elevation: 10–550 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Senecio astephanus</i> San Gabriel ragwort	-- / -- / CRPR 4.3	April–June	Steep, rocky slopes in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and oak woodland. Elevation: 400–1,500 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Senecio blochmaniae</i> Blochman's ragwort	-- / -- / CRPR 4.2	May–November	Coastal sand dunes, sandy floodplains. Elevation: < 150 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Sidalcea hickmanii</i> ssp. <i>anomala</i> Cuesta Pass checkerbloom	-- / SR / CRPR 1B.2	May–June	Closed-cone-coniferous forest, generally serpentine. Elevation: 600–800 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Suaeda californica</i> California seablite	FE / -- / CRPR 1B.1	July–October	Margins of coastal salt marshes. Elevation: <5 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Trifolium hydrophilum</i> Saline clover	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.2	April–June	Salt marshes, open areas in alkaline soils. Elevation: < 300 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.
<i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i> Caper-fruited tropidocarpum	-- / -- / CRPR 1B.1	March–April	Alkaline soils, low hills, valleys. Elevation: < 400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not observed during survey.

Note: This list does not include listed non-vascular cryptograms.

Status Codes:

-- = No status

Federal: FE = Federal Endangered; FT = Federal Threatened

State: SE = State Endangered; SR = State Rare; SCE = State Candidate Endangered

CNPS: Rank 1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; Rank 2B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere; Rank 3 = review list plants about which more information is needed; Rank 4 = watch list plants of limited distribution

Threat Codes: _1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat); _2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened); _3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

1 List of regionally occurring special-status species acquired from CNDDB (CDFW 2026), and CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory (CNPS 2026a), and local expert knowledge. This list includes all vascular plants in these databases; sensitive and rare lichens and moss were excluded.

2 Listing status obtained from CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory (CNPS 2026a).

3 Blooming period and habitat type obtained from Jepson eFlora (Jepson 2026) and occasionally supplemented with information provided by the CNPS (2026a).

4 Species determined to have suitable habitat on-site, even marginally suitable, are indicated with gray highlight and discussed further in the report.

Table C-2. Special-Status Wildlife Species Investigated for Potential Occurrence

Scientific/Common Name ¹	Listing Status ¹ Federal / State / CDFW	Nesting/ Breeding Period ²	Habitat Type ²	Observed / Habitat Present? ³	Comments / Potential for Occurrence
Birds					
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored blackbird	-- / -- / SSC	February– August	Needs nest sites near open, fresh water, protected habitat (such as cattails or tall rushes), and suitable feeding areas (e.g., pastures, rice fields, grassland).	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> Grasshopper sparrow	-- / -- / SSC	May–August	Grasslands with sparse cover and bare areas for foraging on insects.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Anarhynchus nivosus nivosus</i> Western snowy plover	FT / -- / SSC	March–August	Occurs on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden eagle	-- / -- / FP	January–August	Occurs in open country in prairies, tundra, open coniferous forest, and barren areas, especially in hilly or mountainous regions. Nests in large, prominent trees in wooded areas and on cliff ledges.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing owl	-- / SCE / SSC	March–July	Open, dry grasslands and deserts. Will use the burrows of other terrestrial animals. Also found in cleared residential areas such as vacant lots and golf courses.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed kite	-- / -- / FP	March–August	Savannah, open woodlands, marshes, desert, grassland. Prefer partially cleared fields such as ranches and cultivated fields. They build nests on top of old ones of other species in trees.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead shrike	-- / -- / SSC	April–July	Open country with short vegetation and well-spaced shrubs or low trees. Forage in a variety of areas including agricultural fields, pastures, orchards, riparian areas, and desert scrublands. Nests in shrubs, brushpiles, short trees, and man-made structures.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> California black rail	-- / ST / FP	February–June	Nests in areas containing dense and expansive salt marshes, shallow freshwater marshes, wet meadows, flooded grassy vegetation.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.

Scientific/Common Name ¹	Listing Status ¹ Federal / State / CDFW	Nesting/ Breeding Period ²	Habitat Type ²	Observed / Habitat Present? ³	Comments / Potential for Occurrence
<i>Progne subis</i> Purple martin	-- / -- / SSC	April–August	Occurs in woodlands in close proximity to water bodies and open fields for foraging. Tolerant of humans and very attracted to bird feeders. Cavity nesters.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
<i>Rallus obsoletus obsoletus</i> California Ridgway's rail	FE / SE / FP	March–July	Found in wetlands and coastal salt marshes.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable nesting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> Least Bell's vireo	FE / SE / SSC	Late Summer– Early Fall	Occurs in dense, shrubby vegetation in brushy fields, second growth forest, woodland, riparian, chaparral, and mesquite brush lands; often near water in arid regions. Constructs nests suspended from branches of small trees or shrubs.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No CNDDB documented occurrences within 10 miles of the BSA; species not expected to nest within the BSA.
Mammals					
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	-- / -- / SSC	October– February	Occurs in deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. May roost in hollow trees and old buildings.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable roosting habitat present within the hollow trees within BSA; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	-- / -- / SSC	November–May	Occurs in mines, tunnels, buildings, and human-made structures. May use different day and night roosts. Prefers mesic habitats. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable roosting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to roost within the BSA.
<i>Dipodomys heermanni morroensis</i> Morro Bay kangaroo rat	FE / SE / FP	March–August	Stabilized sand dune, coastal dune and coastal sage scrub; sandy soils essential for burrowing. Prefers fine sand and is restricted to the Morro Bay area.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Eumops perotis</i> Western mastiff bat	-- / -- / SSC	March–July	Broad open areas, chaparral, montane meadows, rocky cliffs, canyon areas, roosts in crevices, tunnels, also in buildings.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable roosting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to roost within the BSA.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	-- / -- / SSC	November–April	Woodland, mixed chaparral and desert habitats. Forms dens using gathered materials, such as twigs and leaves, in cracks of boulders.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.

Scientific/Common Name ¹	Listing Status ¹ Federal / State / CDFW	Nesting/ Breeding Period ²	Habitat Type ²	Observed / Habitat Present? ³	Comments / Potential for Occurrence
<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> Big free-tailed bat	-- / -- / SSC	February–June	Rugged, rocky terrain; preferably weathered fissures and crevices. Roosts in rocky cliffs, buildings, and some plants (ponderosa pines, Douglas fir, and desert shrubs).	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable roosting habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to roost within the BSA.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	-- / -- / SSC	Fall–Spring	Occurs in dry, open fields with friable soil for tunneling and foraging.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> San Joaquin kit fox	FE / ST / --	March– September	Occurs in open, annual grasslands with loose, sandy soil.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.
Reptiles					
<i>Actinemys pallida</i> Southwestern pond turtle	FPT / -- / SSC	April–May	Occurs in ponds, lakes, rivers, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches with abundant vegetation and rocky or muddy bottoms. Requires rocks, logs, or exposed banks for basking. Nests along water margins usually in full sunlight.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable aquatic habitat present in within the BSA and CNDDB occurrence downstream in Atascadero Creek; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> Northern California legless lizard	-- / -- / SSC	March– November	Occurs in sandy or loose loamy soils under coastal scrub or oak trees. Soil moisture is essential.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable habitat present within the BSA; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast horned lizard	-- / -- / SSC	May–September	Occurs in wide variety of habitats; most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA, species not expected to occur within the BSA.
Amphibians					
<i>Batrachoseps minor</i> Lesser slender salamander	-- / -- / SSC	Lay eggs: Fall–Winter	Occurs in mesic, deeply shaded slopes with dense leaf litter of variable tree species, including coast live oak, tanbark oak, western sycamore, and poison oak, above 400 m.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. BSA outside the known range and elevation for the species; species is not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Rana boylei</i> pop. 6 foothill yellow-legged frog - south coast DPS	FE / SE / --	April–July	Rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate. Found in woodlands, chaparral and forests with open sunny banks.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA and likely extirpated south of Monterey County; species not expected to occur within the BSA.

Scientific/Common Name ¹	Listing Status ¹ Federal / State / CDFW	Nesting/ Breeding Period ²	Habitat Type ²	Observed / Habitat Present? ³	Comments / Potential for Occurrence
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	FT / -- / SSC	April–July	Occurs in lowlands and foothills in or near sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable aquatic habitat present in Atascadero Creek within the BSA; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> Western spadefoot toad	FPT / -- / SSC	January–August	Occurs in seasonal/vernal pools in coastal scrub, grassland, chaparral, woodland habitat, and open areas with sandy or gravelly soils.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. Seasonal and ephemeral waterbodies and suitable soils not present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Taricha torosa</i> Coast Range newt	-- / -- / SSC	January–August	Occurs in slow moving streams, ponds, and lakes with surrounding evergreen/oak forests along the coast. Aquatic when breeding.	Yes / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable aquatic habitat present in Atascadero Creek and species observed within the BSA.
Fish					
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> Tidewater goby	FE / -- / SSC	Year–Round (April–May)	Occurs in brackish shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches where water is fairly still, but not stagnant.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable aquatic habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 9 Steelhead – South-Central California Coast DPS	FT / -- / SSC	February–April	Occurs in clear, cool water with abundant instream cover, well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio.	No / Yes	Suitable Conditions Present. Suitable aquatic habitat present in Atascadero Creek within the BSA; species has potential to occur within the BSA.
Invertebrates					
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch's bumble bee	-- / SCE / --	February–October	Occurs in open grassland and scrub habitat. Nest primarily underground. Generalist forager. Select food plant genera include <i>Fabaceae</i> , <i>Apocynaceae</i> , <i>Asteraceae</i> , <i>Lamiaceae</i> , <i>Boraginaceae</i> . Little is known about overwintering sites.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable habitat present within the BSA, species not expected to occur within the BSA.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT / -- / --	Winter–Spring	Occurs in vernal pools and depressions in grasslands.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. No suitable vernal pool habitat present within the BSA; species not expected to occur within the BSA.

Scientific/Common Name ¹	Listing Status ¹ Federal / State / CDFW	Nesting/ Breeding Period ²	Habitat Type ²	Observed / Habitat Present? ³	Comments / Potential for Occurrence
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> pop.1 Monarch butterfly – California overwintering population	FPT / -- / --	Spring	Occurs along coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Winter roosts in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. Trees present within the BSA are not typically utilized by monarch populations; species not expected to overwinter within the BSA.
<i>Helminthoglypta walkeriana</i> Morro shoulderband	FT / -- / --	October–April	Restricted to Baywood fine sand in coastal dune and coastal sage scrub communities near Morro Bay. Often occurs under shrubs that exhibit dense, low growth and have ample contact with ground. Some utilize mock heather, seaside golden yarrow, deerweed, sand almond, and ice plant.	No / No	Suitable Conditions Absent. The BSA is outside the known range and lacks suitable habitat; species not expected to occur within the BSA.

Status Codes: --= No status **Federal:** FE = Federal Endangered; FT= Federal Threatened, FC= Federal Candidate FPT=Proposed Threatened **State:** SE= State Endangered; ST= State Threatened, SC=State Candidate; **CDFW:** SSC= Species of Special Concern; FP= Fully Protected Species

¹ List of regionally occurring special-status species and listing status acquired from CNDDB (CDFW 2026) and local expert knowledge. State Special Animals and Watch List species have been omitted from this list because these taxa do not currently have a protected status. Species omitted are great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), Cooper's hawk (*Astur cooperii*), Wawona rattle beetle (*Atractelmis wawona*), obscure bumble bee (*Bombus caliginosus*), American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), sandy beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela hirticollis gravida*), globose dune beetle (*Coelus globosus*), Santa Lucia mountain kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys venustus sanctiluciae*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Morro bay blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides morroensis*), California linderiella (*Linderiella occidentalis*), Morro Bay June beetle (*Polyphylla morroensis*), Atascadero June beetle (*Polyphylla nubile*), San Luis Obispo pyrg (*Pyrgulopsis taylori*), Lompoc grasshopper (*Trimerotropis occulens*) and California brackishwater snail (*Tryonia imitator*).

² Life history information obtained from multiple sources, including Cornell Lab of Ornithology Online (Cornell 2026), CaliforniaHerps.com (Nafis 2026), and USFWS ECOS (USFWS 2026a).

³ Species observed on-site indicated in **bold**. Species determined to have suitable habitat on-site, even marginally suitable, are indicated with gray highlight and discussed further in the report.

ATTACHMENT D

Botanical and Wildlife Species Observed

Table D-1. Plant Species Observed

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
Agavaceae, Agave Family	<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum</i>	Soaproot	Native
Anacardiaceae, Sumac Family	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak	Native
Apiaceae, Carrot Family	<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur chevil	Naturalized
	<i>Berula erecta</i> var. <i>incisa</i>	Cut leaf water parsnip	Native
	<i>Bowlesia incana</i>	Bowlesia	Native
	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	Naturalized
	<i>Sanicula crassicaulis</i> var. <i>crassicaulis</i>	Pacific sanicle	Native
	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Field hedge parsley	Naturalized
Apocynaceae, Dogbane Family	<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater periwinkle	Naturalized
Asteraceae, Sunflower Family	<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sage brush	Native
	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort	Native
	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> var. <i>consanguinea</i>	Coyote brush	Native
	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> ssp. <i>salicifolia</i>	Mulefat	Native
	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> ssp. <i>pycnocephalus</i>	Italian thistle	Naturalized
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull thistle	Naturalized
	<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	California everlasting	Native
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Common groundsel	Naturalized
Boraginaceae, Borage Family	<i>Amsinckia retrosa</i>	Rigid fiddleneck	Native
	<i>Plagiobothrys nothofulvus</i>	Rusty-haired popcorn flower	Native
Brassicaceae, Mustard Family	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	Naturalized
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepard's purse	Naturalized
	<i>Cardamine californica</i>	Milk-maids	Native
	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy bitter cress	Naturalized
	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Perennial mustard	Naturalized
	<i>Lepidium didymum</i>	Lesser swine cress	Naturalized
	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	Naturalized
	<i>Thysanocarpus curvipes</i> ssp. <i>curvipes</i>	Fringe pod	Native
Caprifoliaceae, Honeysuckle Family	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> var. <i>laevigatus</i>	Snowberry	Native
Caryophyllaceae, Pink Family	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Large mouse ears	Naturalized
	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	Naturalized
Chenopodiaceae, Goosefoot Family	<i>Blitum californicum</i>	California goosefoot	Native
Convolvulaceae, Morning Glory Family	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i> ssp. <i>cyclostegia</i>	Coast morning glory	Native

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
Cornaceae, Dogwood Family	<i>Cornus sericea</i> ssp. <i>occidentalis</i>	Western dogwood	Native
Cucurbitaceae, Gourd Family	<i>Marah fabacea</i>	California manroot	Native
Cyperaceae, Sedge Family	<i>Carex nudata</i>	Torrent sedge	Native
	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Tall sedge	Native
Euphorbiaceae, Spurge Family	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge	Naturalized
Fabaceae, Legume Family	<i>Acmispon glaber</i> var. <i>glaber</i>	Deerweed	Native
	<i>Hoita macrostachya</i>	California hemp	Native
	<i>Lathyrus jepsonii</i> var. <i>californicus</i>	California tule pea	Native
	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	Yellow burclover	Naturalized
	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Yellow sweetclover	Naturalized
	<i>Trifolium bifidum</i> var. <i>bifidum</i>	Pinole clover	Native
	<i>Trifolium gracilentum</i>	Pin point clover	Native
	<i>Trifolium hirtum</i>	Rose clover	Naturalized
	<i>Vicia villosa</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i>	Hairy vetch	Naturalized
Fagaceae, Oak Family	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	Native
	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	Blue oak	Native
	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak	Native
Geraniaceae, Geranium Family	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Big heron bill	Naturalized
	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Coastal heron's bill	Naturalized
	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Wild geranium	Naturalized
Grossulariaceae, Gooseberry Family	<i>Ribes divaricatum</i> var. <i>pubiflorum</i>	Straggly gooseberry	Native
	<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia gooseberry	Native
Hydrophyllaceae, Water Leaf Family	<i>Phacelia imbricata</i> var. <i>imbricata</i>	Imbricate phacelia	Native
	<i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>auritum</i>	Purple fiesta flower	Native
Juncaceae, Rush Family	<i>Juncus patens</i>	Common rush	Native
Lamiaceae, Mint Family	<i>Clinopodium douglasii</i>	Yerba buena	Native
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit	Naturalized
	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound	Naturalized
	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage	Native
	<i>Salvia spathacea</i>	Hummingbird sage	Native
Lauraceae, Bay Laurel Family	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California bay laurel	Native
Liliaceae, Lily Family	<i>Calochortus albus</i>	White fairy lantern	Native
Malvaceae, Mallow Family	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Cheeseweed	Naturalized

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
Montiaceae, Rooreh Family	<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> ssp. <i>perfoliata</i>	Rooreh	Native
Myrsinaceae, Myrsine Family	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	Naturalized
Onagraceae, Evening Primrose Family	<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Woodland clarkia	Native
	<i>Epilobium brachycarpum</i>	Willow herb	Native
Papaveraceae, Poppy Family	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	Native
Phrymaceae, Monkeyflower Family	<i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i> var. <i>aurantiacus</i>	Orange bush monkeyflower	Native
	<i>Erythranthe nasuta</i>	Creek monkeyflower	Native
Plantaginaceae, Plantain Family	<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Heart leafed keckiella	Native
Platanaceae, Plane Tree Family	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore	Native
Poaceae, Grass Family	<i>Avena barbata</i>	Slender wild oats	Naturalized
	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oats	Naturalized
	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	Naturalized
	<i>Bromus sitchensis</i> var. <i>carinatus</i>	California brome	Native
	<i>Cynosurus echinatus</i>	Dogtail grass	Naturalized
	<i>Festuca myuros</i>	Rattail sixweeks grass	Naturalized
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i> ssp. <i>leporinum</i>	Foxtail barley	Naturalized
	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Canary grass	Naturalized
	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual bluegrass	Naturalized
	<i>Stipa miliacea</i> var. <i>miliacea</i>	Smilo grass	Naturalized
Polygonaceae, Buckwheat Family	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> var. <i>fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Native
	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	Naturalized
Polypodiaceae, Polypody Family	<i>Polypodium californicum</i>	California polypody	Native
Pteridaceae, Brake Family	<i>Adiantum jordanii</i>	California maidenhair fern	Native
	<i>Pellaea andromedifolia</i>	Coffee fern	Native
	<i>Pentagramma triangularis</i> ssp. <i>triangularis</i>	Goldieback fern	Native
Ranunculaceae, Buttercup Family	<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>parryi</i>	Parry's larkspur	Native
	<i>Ranunculus californicus</i> var. <i>californicus</i>	California buttercup	Native
	<i>Thalictrum fendleri</i> var. <i>fendleri</i>	Fendler's meadow rue	Native
Rhamnaceae, Buckthorn Family	<i>Ceanothus oliganthus</i> var. <i>sorediatus</i>	Jim bush	Native
	<i>Frangula californica</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	California coffeeberry	Native
Rosaceae, Rose Family	<i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>betuloides</i>	Birch leaf mountain mahogany	Native
	<i>Drymocaulis glandulosa</i> var. <i>wrangelliana</i>	Sticky cinquefoil	Native
	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon	Native

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Origin
	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry	Native
	<i>Rosa californica</i>	California rose	Native
	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	Naturalized
	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California blackberry	Native
Rubiaceae, Coffee Family	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Native
	<i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>californicum</i>	California bedstraw	Native
	<i>Galium porrigens</i>	Climbing bedstraw	Native
Salicaceae, Willow Family	<i>Salix exigua</i> var. <i>hindsiana</i>	Sandbar willow	Native
	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red willow	Native
	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	Native
Saxifragaceae, Saxifrage Family	<i>Lithophragma affine</i>	Common woodland star	Native
Scrophulariaceae, Figwort Family	<i>Scrophularia californica</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	California bee plant	Native
Themidaceae' Brodiaea Family	<i>Dipterostemon capitatus</i> ssp. <i>capitatus</i>	Blue bells	Native
Urticaceae, Stinging Nettle Family	<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>holosericea</i>	Stinging nettle	Native
Verbenaceae, Verbena Family	<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i> var. <i>lasiostachys</i>	Western vervain	Native
Viburnaceae, Elderberry Family	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> ssp. <i>mexicana</i>	Blue elderberry	Native
Viscaceae, Mistletoe Family	<i>Phoradendron villosum</i> ssp. <i>villosum</i>	Mistletoe	Native

Table D-2. Wildlife Species Observed

Taxa	Scientific Name	Common Name
Amphibians	<i>Taricha torosa</i>	Coast Range newt
Birds	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Oak titmouse
	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Hermit thrush
	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
	<i>Corthylio calendula</i>	Ruby-crowned kinglet
	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Steller's jay
	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch
	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed junco
	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Acorn woodpecker
	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black phoebe
	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Yellow-rumped warbler
	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
Reptiles	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western fence lizard
Mammals	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel

ATTACHMENT E

CNDDB Form

CNDDDB Online Field Survey Form Report



California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, Suite 1266
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.324.0475
cnddb@wildlife.ca.gov
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/>



Source code xxxx
Quad code 3512046
Occ. no. _____
EO index no. _____
Map index no. _____

This data has been reported to the CNDDDB, but may not have been evaluated by the CNDDDB staff

Scientific name: *Taricha torosa*

Common name: *Coast Range newt*

Date of field work (mm-dd-yyyy): 03-02-2026

Comment about field work date(s):

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer: *Monica Hemenez*

Affiliation:

Address: 1151 Laurel Lane , San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Email: monica.hemenez@swca.com

Phone: (510) 414-3178

Other observers:

DETERMINATION

Personal expertise: *Yes*

Keyed in:

Compared w/ specimen at:

Compared w/ image in:

By another person: *Brian Dugas*

Other:

Identification explanation: *Stocky medium sized salamander, brown dorsally, orange ventrally.*

Identification confidence: *Very confident*

Species found: *Yes* If not found, why not?

Level of survey effort:

Total number of individuals: *3*

Collection? *No*

Collection number:

Museum/Herbarium:

ANIMAL INFORMATION

How was the detection made? *Seen*

Number detected in each age class:

3

adults

juveniles

larvae

egg mass

other

Age class comment: *Size indicative of adults.*

Site use description:

What was the observed behavior? [Three individuals swimming in Atascadero Creek.](#)

Describe any evidence of reproduction:

SITE INFORMATION

Habitat description: [Atascadero Creek](#)

Slope:

Landowner/manager:

Aspect:

Site condition + population viability:

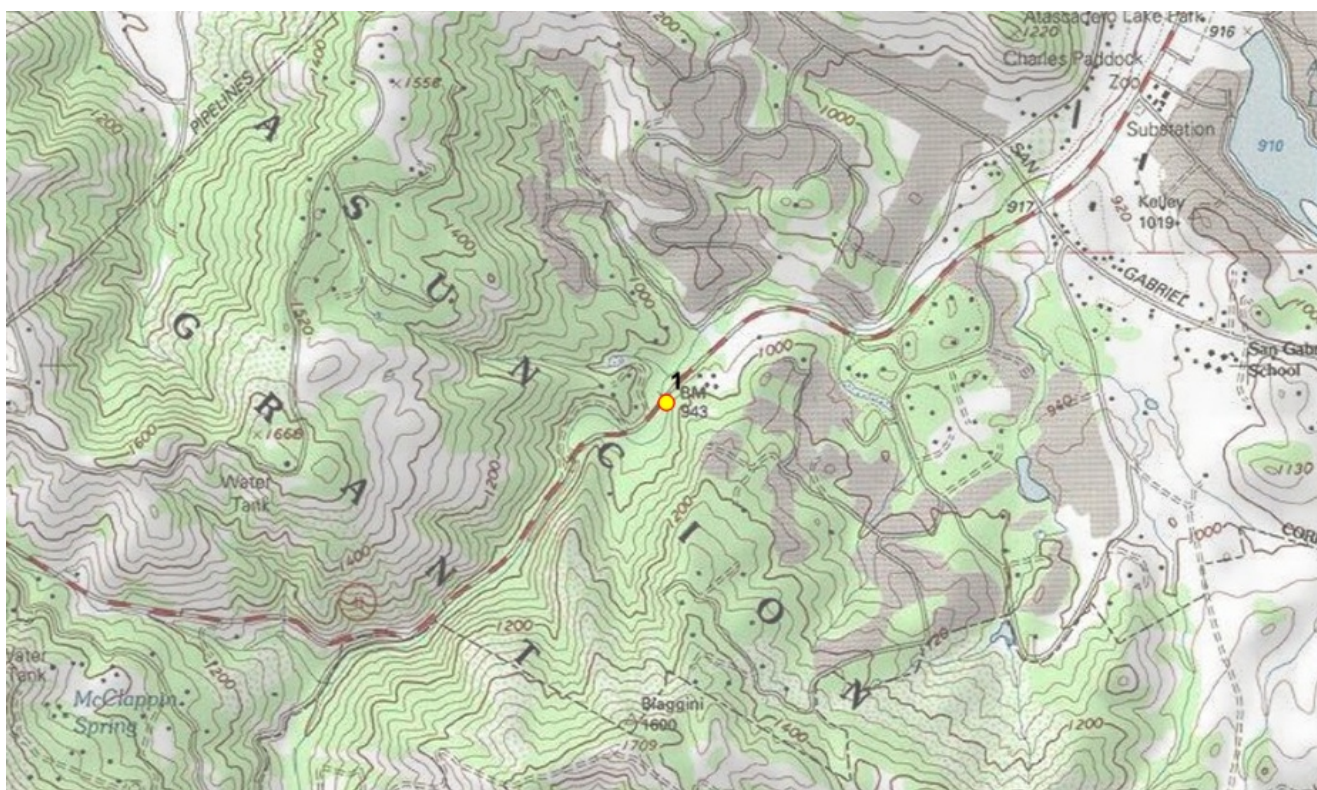
Immediate & surrounding land use:

Visible disturbances:

Threats:

General comments:

MAP INFORMATION



ID	County	24K Quadrangle	Elev. (ft)	Latitude NAD83	Longitude NAD83	UTM E NAD83	UTM N NAD83	UTM Zone
	San Luis Obispo	Atascadero	-9999	35.45720	-120.68802	709811	3926203	10
1	Public Land Survey	Feature Comment						
	M T28S R12E 28							

The mapped feature is accurate within: [5 m](#)

Source of mapped feature: [GPS, 1 meter](#)

Mapping notes:

Location/directions comments:

Attachment(s):

EXHIBIT B – MITIGATION SUMMARY TABLE
Atascadero Creek Lake Fill Pipeline Repair Project
DEV26-0043

Per Public Resources Code § 21081.6, the following measures also constitutes the mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program that will reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. The measures will become conditions of approval (COAs) should the project be approved. The City of Atascadero, as the Lead Agency, or other responsible agencies, as specified, are responsible to verify compliance with these COAs.

MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING****Air Quality**

AQ-1 The project shall comply with the following SLO APCD Fugitive *Dust Mitigation Measures* for projects with nearby sensitive receptors and/or earthwork exceeding 4-acres to minimize nuisance impacts and to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions:

Prior to Building
Permit Issuance,
During
Construction

- All dirt stockpile areas and exposed areas should be sprayed daily as needed.
- Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
- Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
- All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114; and
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD. Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition

This measure shall be written on the final building and grading plans. APCD and City staff shall monitor implementation during construction.



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

AQ-2	No idling of vehicles or diesel equipment shall be allowed during construction. This measure shall be written on the final building and grading plans. APCD and City staff shall monitor implementation during construction.	Prior to Building Permit Issuance, During Construction
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Biological Resources

BIO-1	The incorporation of the following mitigation measures will reduce all identified impacts to biological resources to a <i>less than significant with mitigation incorporated:</i> 1. Prior to the start of construction, the applicant shall prepare Compensatory Mitigation Plan that includes the following tree replacement / mitigation that includes replanting of affected trees. The plan shall be prepared in shall be developed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Nationwide Permit 58), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement). Proof of approved permits USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW shall be submitted to the City's planning department prior to construction. 2. An environmental awareness training shall be presented to all construction personnel by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any project activities. The training shall include color photographs and a description of the ecology of all special-status species known or with potential to occur, as well as other sensitive resources requiring avoidance during construction. The training shall also include a description of protection measures required by discretionary permits, an overview of the federal and California Endangered Species Acts, and implications of noncompliance with these regulations. This will include an overview of the required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. A sign-in sheet with the name and signature of the qualified biologist who presented the training, and the names and signatures of the environmental awareness trainees will be kept. A fact sheet conveying the information provided in the environmental awareness training will be provided to all project personnel.	Prior to Permit Issuance, Prior to Permit Final
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MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

3. Within 30 days of commencement of tree removal activities, a focused survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine if roosting bats are present in trees scheduled for removal. The survey shall include complete visual inspection and evaluation of large trees for potential roosts. An acoustic survey combined with a visual bat emergence survey shall be conducted. If a bat roost is located in the planned disturbance area and cannot be avoided, a Bat Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (BHMMMP) shall be prepared, specific to the observed conditions. The BHMMMP shall contain specific details regarding exclusion efforts for the existing roosting habitat to be removed, details on the type and placement of alternative roosting habitat, and protection measures for roost habitat to remain if feasible. If a maternity colony is identified during the breeding season (generally April–October) and it cannot be avoided, the qualified biologist shall consult with the CDFW for guidance and shall implement all requirements and recommendations provided by the CDFW.
4. To protect steelhead, no work will occur during active stream flow conditions, and no diversion will be required for the proposed project.
5. A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-activity survey immediately prior to the start of initial ground disturbance to ensure any sensitive wildlife species are not within the work area. If Northern California legless lizard or Coast Range newt are found in the project area, a qualified biologist will relocate the individual to nearby suitable habitat outside of the work area. If southwestern pond turtle is found within the work area, they shall be allowed to leave the area on their own volition. If necessary, resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance.
6. If project activities are expected to occur during the typical avian nesting season (i.e., February 1 – August 31), pre-activity surveys shall be completed by a qualified biologist within one week prior to project initiation. Surveys for raptors shall be conducted within a 250-foot radius of the project site. If any active non-listed raptor nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be designated, and a no-work buffer of 250 feet shall be established until the young have fledged and are no longer reliant on the nest tree or parental care, or the nest is no longer active; reduced buffers may be appropriate and resource agencies will be contacted for further guidance. Surveys for other non-listed avian species shall be conducted within a 50-foot radius of the project site. If any active nests are observed, these nests and nest trees shall be protected



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

with an appropriate work buffer and monitored by a qualified biologist. All activity will remain outside of the designated buffers until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged or that proposed construction activities would not cause adverse impacts to the nest, adults, eggs, or young. If work activities are deemed to not be a threat to a given nest within a buffer zone, a qualified biologist may monitor the nest during work to ensure that the nesting birds are not disturbed (e.g., showing signs of stress or changes in behavior as a result of work activity). If any active nests of listed, fully protected, or otherwise special-status bird species are detected during the surveys, the appropriate agency shall be contacted for guidance on how to proceed.

California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) Specific Mitigation:

7. A USFWS-approved biologist (and CDFW-authorized, if required) shall conduct preconstruction clearance surveys within all work areas and a minimum 100-foot buffer no more than 24 hours prior to the start of initial ground disturbance and prior to any nuisance dewatering activities. Clearance surveys shall consist of both a daytime survey and a nighttime survey conducted during suitable environmental conditions (e.g., ambient temperatures generally above 50°F, wind speeds less than approximately 5 miles per hour, and absence of heavy precipitation), when CRLF are most likely to be active and detectable.

Daytime surveys shall focus on identifying suitable aquatic and upland refugia, including ponded nuisance water, saturated soils, vegetated margins, small mammal burrows, root wads, and debris. Nighttime surveys shall be conducted using visual encounter survey methods with high-intensity directional lighting capable of detecting amphibian eyeshine. Acceptable lighting shall include devices such as Wheat lamps, Nite Lights, or sealed-beam lights that produce illumination sufficient for eyeshine detection but do not exceed approximately 100,000 candlepower. The light source shall be held at or near the observer's eye level to maximize detection of eyeshine, and binoculars shall be used in conjunction with the light to improve detection and identification of individuals.

If CRLF are detected, work shall not commence until the individual(s) have either voluntarily moved out of the work area or have been relocated in accordance



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

with AMM-CRLF-3 by an authorized biologist. Clearance surveys shall be repeated if work is delayed more than 24 hours or if site conditions change (e.g., precipitation resulting in new ponding or increased habitat suitability).

8. A qualified biologist shall be present during initial ground disturbance and vegetation removal. The biologist shall monitor for CRLF and ensure implementation of all avoidance and minimization measures. The biologist shall have authority to stop work if CRLF are observed within or adjacent to the work area. If CRLF are observed during construction, work shall cease in the immediate vicinity until the individual has moved away on its own or has been relocated by an authorized biologist.
9. Capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist authorized pursuant to a USFWS Biological Opinion, Section 10 permit, or other applicable federal authorization, and in coordination with CDFW, as appropriate. Qualified biologists may assist with capture and relocation under the direct supervision of the USFWS-approved biologist, who shall remain responsible for ensuring all activities are conducted in accordance with permit conditions and applicable agency protocols. Relocation shall be minimized to the extent practicable and shall only occur when necessary to prevent injury or mortality. Capture methods shall be limited to hand capture or dip nets and shall avoid excessive handling. Individuals shall be relocated to suitable habitat outside the impact area within the same watershed, where feasible, and in locations that provide appropriate cover, moisture, and connectivity to aquatic habitat. Relocation sites shall be identified in advance. All capture and relocation activities shall be documented, including date, number of individuals, life stage, condition, and release location.
10. Dewatering of nuisance water shall be conducted in accordance with USFWS and CDFW protocols to avoid take of CRLF and minimize impacts to aquatic habitat. Prior to dewatering, a qualified biologist shall survey all standing water and remove any CRLF. Dewatering shall be conducted gradually to allow undetected individuals to disperse. Water levels shall be reduced incrementally rather than rapidly drained. Pump intakes shall be screened with mesh no larger than 1/8 inch (3.2 millimeters) and shall be placed within a screened enclosure (e.g., perforated bucket or intake cage) to prevent entrainment and impingement. Pumps shall be



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

operated in a manner that avoids sudden drawdown or stranding of aquatic organisms. Dewatering shall proceed directionally (e.g., from upstream to downstream or from one side of the feature to the other) to avoid isolating individuals. Discharge water shall be released to stable upland or vegetated areas and shall not cause erosion, sedimentation, or degradation of aquatic habitat. Energy dissipation devices shall be used where necessary.

11. Work shall be conducted during the dry season (generally May through October) to minimize the likelihood of CRLF occupying the work area. No work shall occur during or within 24 hours of precipitation events that result in ponding or surface flow within the project area. If rainfall occurs and creates suitable habitat conditions within the work area, construction activities shall be halted and a qualified biologist shall reassess the site and conduct clearance surveys prior to resumption of work.
12. Any holes or trenches will be sloped to allow for wildlife to escape. The qualified biological monitor will inspect all holes and trenches each morning. If the qualified biological monitor finds a California red-legged frog in a hole or trench, capture and relocation of CRLF shall be conducted under the direction of a USFWS-approved biologist.
13. All biologists engaged in capture/relocation activities should follow the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice to avoid or minimize the potential to spread pathogens, such as chytrid fungus.
14. Any California red-legged frogs captured and relocated should be handled for as short a time as possible, and transported to relocation sites as quickly as possible.
15. Biologists should document the location(s) to where California red-legged frogs are relocated, with a description of the habitat and whether any other California red-legged frogs are already present.
16. Special attention should be given to the voids proposed for filling as California red-legged frog may seek cover/refuge in those places. A qualified biologist will permanently remove any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs, crayfish, and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current>).
17. All work performed within jurisdictional waters shall be completed in a manner that minimizes impacts to beneficial uses and habitat. Measures shall be employed to minimize land disturbances that will



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

adversely impact the water quality of jurisdictional waters. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall not exceed the minimum necessary to complete project implementation.

18. All trash should be covered and/or taken off site to minimize attraction of predators that may feed on special-status species.
19. All refueling and equipment maintenance should be conducted at least 50 feet away from waterbodies to avoid accidental contamination.
20. Any graded or disturbed areas will be restored to pre-project contours.
21. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be on-site prior to the start of project activities and kept on-site at all times so they are immediately available for installation in anticipation of rain events.
22. Erosion and sediment control measures and other construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented and maintained in accordance with all specifications governing their proper design, installation, operation, and maintenance.
23. Erosion control measures such as silt fences and fiber rolls shall be maintained on a daily basis during project activities.
24. There shall be a designated staging area for vehicle fueling and storage at least 50 feet away from any water body, in a location where fluids or accidental discharges cannot flow into waterways.
25. A spill plan and appropriate spill control and clean up materials (e.g., oil absorbent pads) shall be on-site in case spills occur.
26. All vehicles, equipment, materials, and any temporary BMPs no longer needed shall be removed from the site upon completion of the project.
27. Any stockpile(s) shall be kept a minimum of 50 feet from the banks of any water body to prevent material from re-entering a water body. At no time shall any stockpiles, waste piles, or debris associated with this project be located within surface water, or where it can be washed back into surface water. All stockpiled debris shall be covered and surrounded with a linear sediment barrier.

All mitigation measures shall be included in the final construction plans. Planning and Public works staff periodically monitor the site periodically to ensure compliance with the listed mitigation measures.

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| CR-01 | Initial site disturbance activities including removal of the existing pipe and existing concrete joint or anchor boxes, shall be monitored by a qualified archeologist or a local tribal | During Construction |
|--------------|--|---------------------|



MITIGATION MEASURE**TIMING**

representative. In the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction or earth disturbing activities, the following standards apply:

- 1) Construction activities shall cease and the Planning Department shall be notified so that the extent and location of the materials discovered may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with State and Federal law.
- 2) In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and local tribal representatives so proper disposition may be accomplished.

The applicant agrees to incorporate the above measures into the project. These measures become a part of the project description and therefore become a part of the record of action upon which the environmental determination is based. All development activity must occur in strict compliance with the above mitigation measures. The measures shall be perpetual and run with the land. These measures are binding on all successors in interest of the subject property.

The applicant understands that any changes made to the project description subsequent to this environmental determination must be reviewed by the Community Development Director or their designee and may require a new environmental analysis for the project. By signing this agreement, the owner(s) agrees to and accepts the incorporation of the above mitigation measures into the proposed project description.


Signature of Owner

ERICK GOMEZ
Name (Print)

07/10/2026
Date



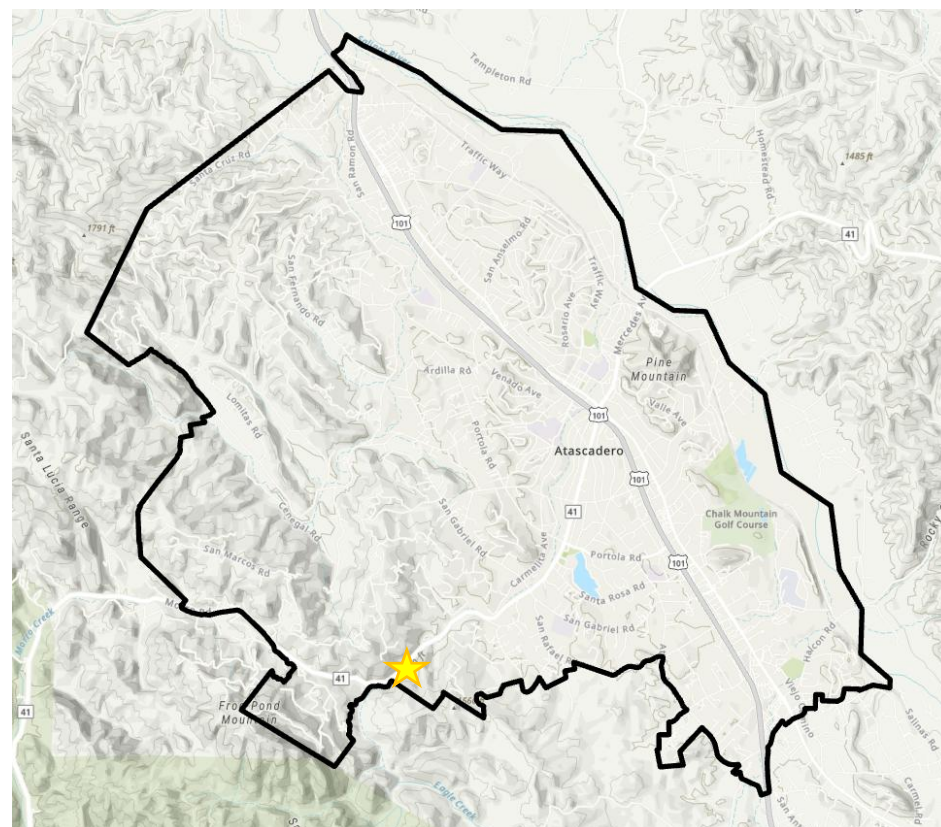
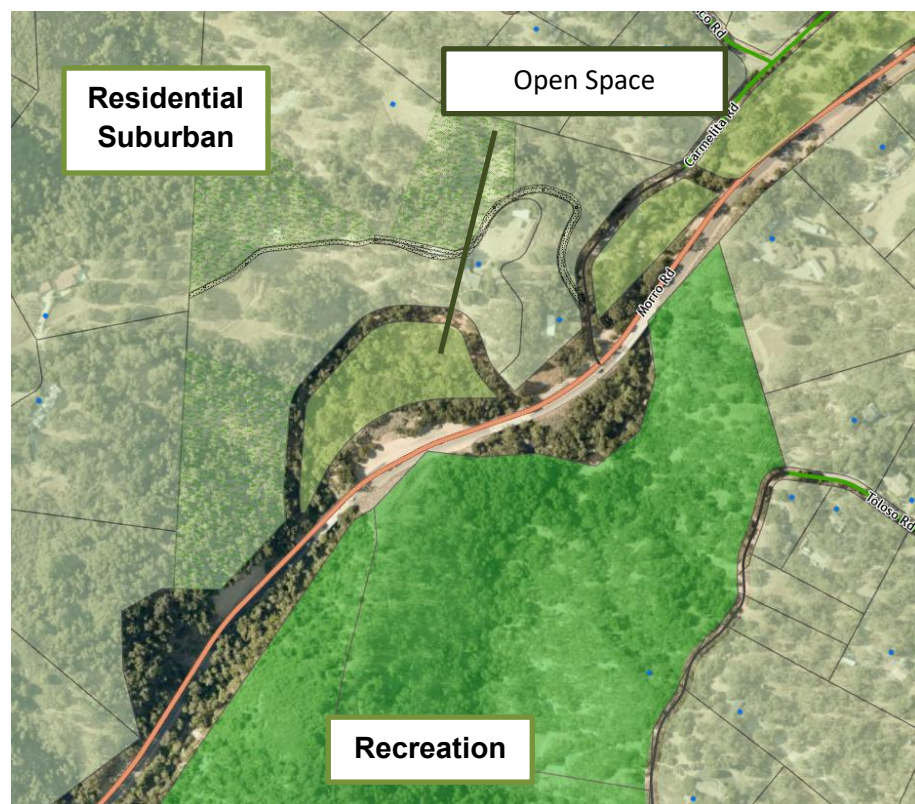
Figure 1 – Zoning and Location Map

Figure 2 – Site Pictures











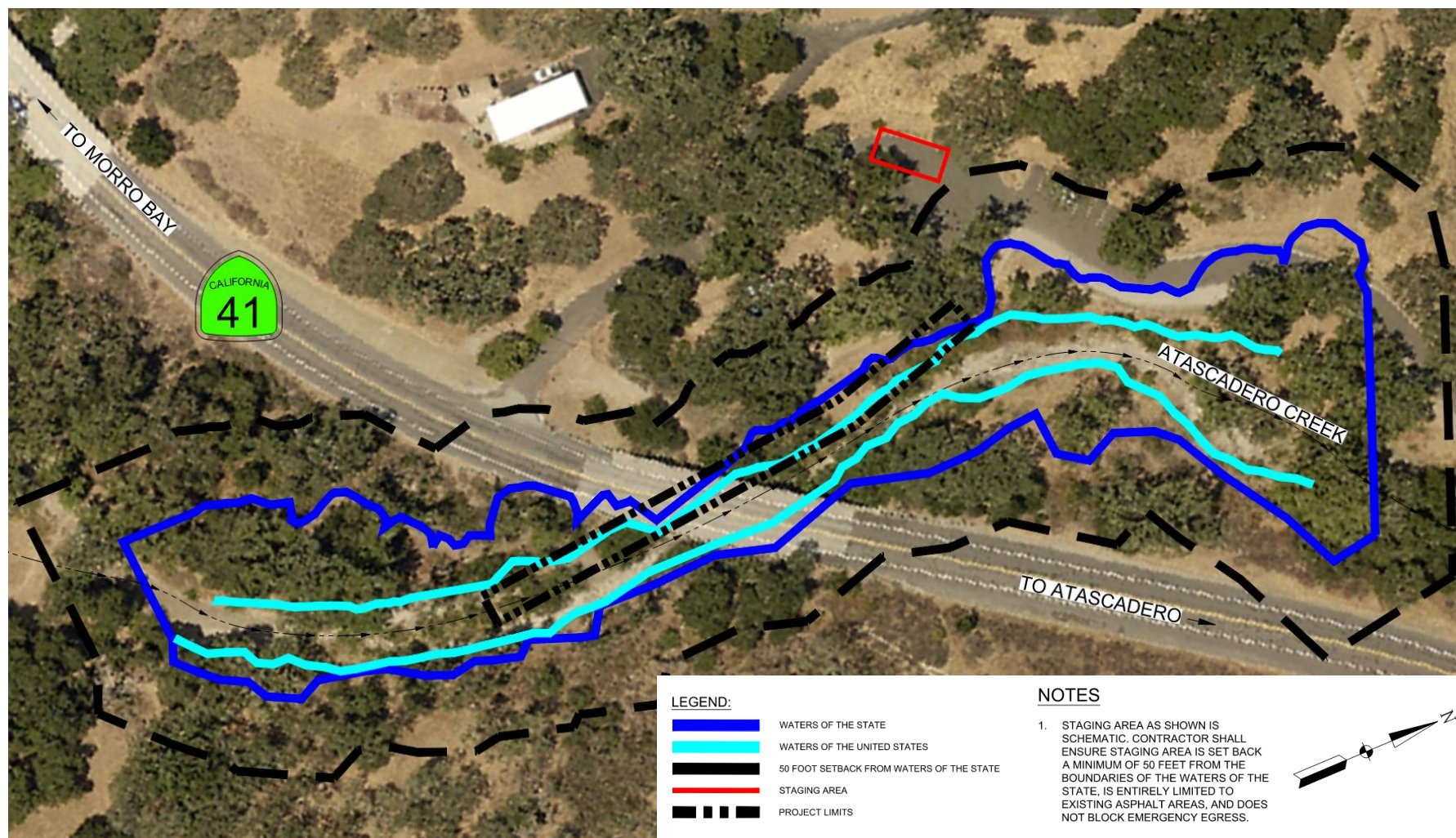
Figure 3 – Site Plan with Jurisdictional Delineation

Figure 4 – Proposed Site Plan

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL CONSTRUCTION WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE MOST CURRENT CITY OF ATASCADERO STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ALL WORK SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE CITY ENGINEER OR DESIGNER. (HEREIN COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS "CITY ENGINEER").

2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE SOLELY AND COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF THE JOB SITE DURING THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING THE SAFETY OF ALL PERSONS AND PROPERTY. THIS REQUIREMENT SHALL BE MADE TO APPLY CONTINUOUSLY AND IS NOT LIMITED TO NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

3. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR SHALL ASSUME SOLE AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO THE SITE AND SHALL, AT HIS EXPENSE, REPAIR OR REPLACE TO ORIGINAL CONDITION ALL EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE JOB SITE WHICH ARE NOT DESIGNATED FOR REMOVAL AND WHICH ARE DAMAGED OR REMOVED AS A RESULT OF HIS OPERATIONS.

4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING AND/OR MAINTAINING ALL WEATHER ACCESS AT ALL TIMES TO EXISTING PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORK AREA. ALL TEMPORARY ACCESS RESTRICTIONS SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK.

5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING AND/OR MAINTAINING ALL EXISTING SERVICES, UTILITIES, GARBAGE COLLECTION, MAIL DISTRIBUTION, ETC., TO EXISTING PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF THE WORK AREA.

6. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PREPARE AND HAVE APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER, A PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION PLAN PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION. TRAFFIC CONTROL SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT CALIFORNIA MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (MUTCD), AND THE WORK AREA TRAFFIC CONTROL HANDBOOK (WATCH). NO STREET OR LANE CLOSURE SHALL BE PERMITTED UNLESS PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED FOR AND GRANTED BY THE CITY ENGINEER.

7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PREPARE AND HAVE APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER, A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN (WPCC) PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN SHALL ADDRESS BOTH COMMON CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS AND SHALL MEET

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE "NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM" (NPDES) GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY. CONSTRUCTION SHALL NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE WPCC IS APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER. 8. AN EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA. HOWEVER, ALL EXISTING UTILITY AND OTHER UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES MAY NOT BE SHOWN ON THIS PLAN AND THEIR LOCATION WHERE SHOWN IS APPROXIMATE. THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR SHALL ASSUME SOLE AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCATING ALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES AND OTHER FACILITIES AND FOR PROTECTING THE SAME DURING THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.

9. THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT (U.S.A.) AT 1-800-442-2444 TWO TO TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF EXCAVATION TO REQUEST THE LOCATION OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY WHETHER A REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH COMPANY WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT DURING EXCAVATION. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO NOTIFY ANY UTILITIES NOT MEMBERS OF U.S.A. DURING THE SAME TIME PERIOD.

10. COMPACTION TESTS SHALL BE DONE ON SUBGRADE MATERIAL, AGGREGATE BASE MATERIAL, AND OTHER MATERIAL AS SPECIFIED BY THE CITY ENGINEER. TESTS SHALL BE COMPLETED BY A CERTIFIED SOILS ENGINEER AND APPROVED BY THE CITY ENGINEER PRIOR TO TO PLACEMENT OF THE NEXT MATERIAL LIFT. THE CONTRACTOR IS DIRECTED TO THE CITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR MINIMUM RELATIVE MATERIAL COMPACTION REQUIREMENTS.

11. EXISTING PAVEMENT SHALL BE SAW CUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS TO REVEAL A COMPETENT STRUCTURAL SECTION AND NEW PAVING SHALL BE JOINED AT THIS POINT. THE EXISTING STRUCTURAL SECTION SHALL BE INSPECTED BY THE CITY ENGINEER PRIOR TO THE PLACEMENT OF BASE.

12. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO PERPETUATE ALL EXISTING SURVEY MONUMENTS WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8771 OF THE LAND SURVEYORS ACT.

13. THE CITY ENGINEER MAY REQUEST REVISIONS IN THE PLANS TO SOLVE UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN THE FIELD. REVISIONS SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE ENGINEER OF RECORD PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE CITY ENGINEER MAY ALERT THE CONTRACTOR TO DEVIATIONS IN THE WORK FROM THE PLANS. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REMEDY THE WORK TO COMPLY WITH THE PLANS TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE INSPECTOR.

14. THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A CURRENT, COMPLETE, AND ACCURATE RECORD OF ALL CHANGES WHICH DEVIATE FROM THE CONSTRUCTION AS PROPOSED IN THESE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A BASIS FOR RECORD DRAWINGS. NO CHANGES SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CITY ENGINEER AND THE ENGINEER OF RECORD.

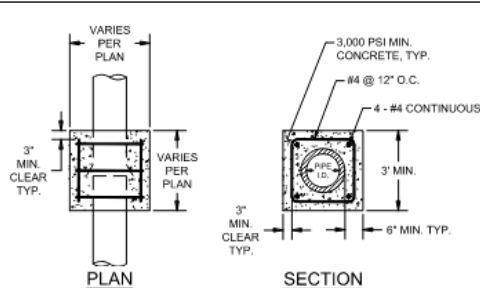
15. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT OSHA SHORING REQUIREMENTS ARE MET AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION.

16. CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL PROJECT PERMITS AND THEIR CONDITIONS. ANTICIPATED PERMITS INCLUDE:

CALTRANS
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PROJECT NOTES

1. INSTALL DRAIN WITH APPROX. 0.5% LONGITUDINAL SLOPE. INVERT ELEVATIONS SHALL MATCH EXISTING INVERT ELEVATIONS AT THE IN POINTS TO STRUCTURES. FINAL ELEVATIONS AND GRADES TO BE APPROVED IN THE FIELD BY THE ENGINEER.
2. ALL NEW STORM DRAIN PIPE SHALL BE BEDDED AND BACKFILLED PER CITY OF ATASCADERO STANDARD DETAIL 702.

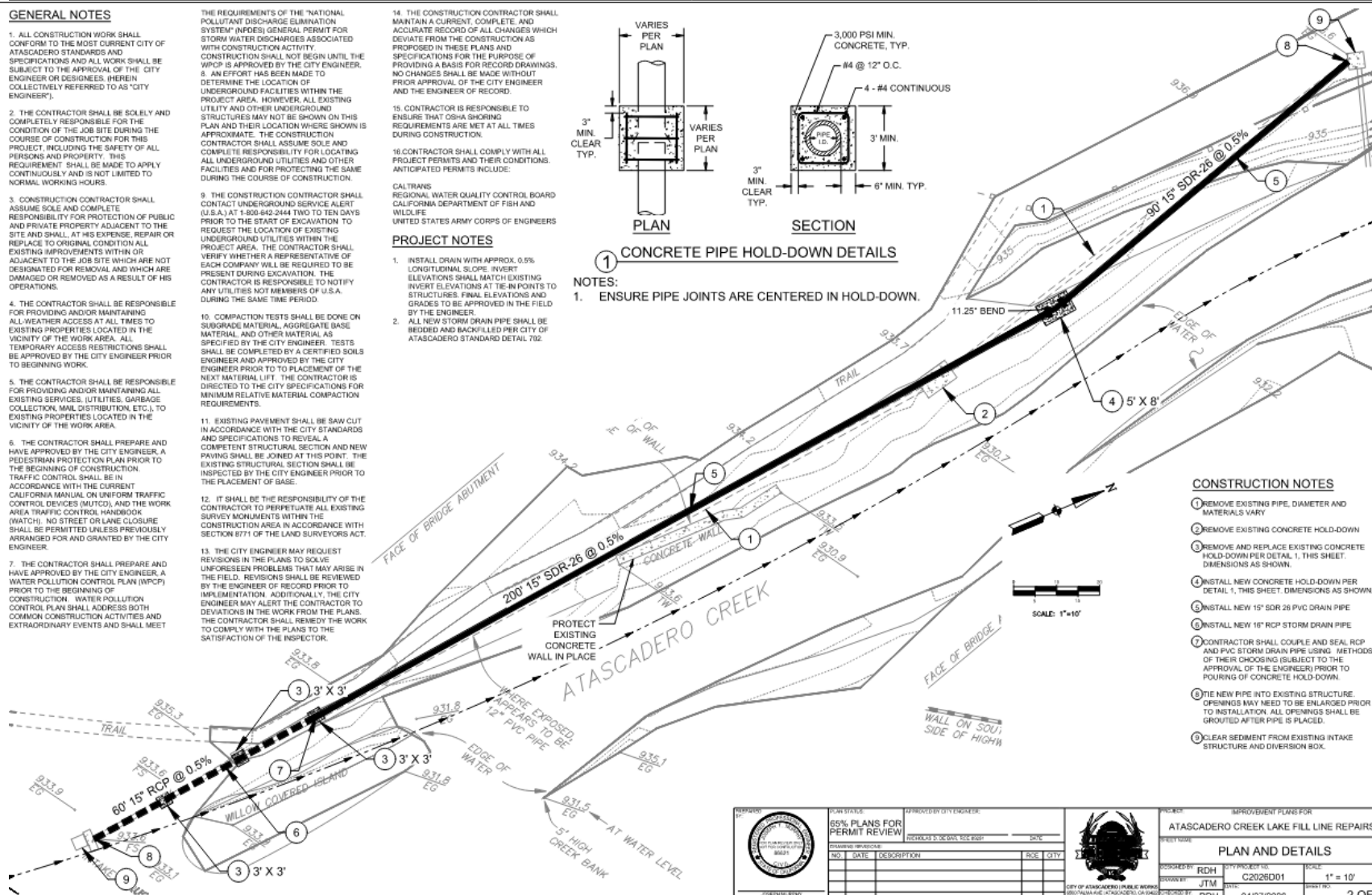


CONCRETE PIPE HOLD-DOWN DETAILS

- NOTES:
1. ENSURE PIPE JOINTS ARE CENTERED IN HOLD-DOWN.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES

1. REMOVE EXISTING PIPE, DIAMETER AND MATERIALS VARY
2. REMOVE EXISTING CONCRETE HOLD-DOWN
3. REMOVE AND REPLACE EXISTING CONCRETE HOLD-DOWN PER DETAIL 1, THIS SHEET. DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN.
4. INSTALL NEW CONCRETE HOLD-DOWN PER DETAIL 1, THIS SHEET. DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN.
5. INSTALL NEW 15\"/>



	PERMITS SIX PLANS FOR PERMIT REVIEW	APPROVED BY CITY ENGINEER REVIEWED BY: J. DE VILLIERS, DATE: 04/27/2026	PROJECT IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR ATASCADERO CREEK LAKE FILL LINE REPAIRS
	DRAWING NUMBER NO. DATE DESCRIPTION	CITY DATE CITY	DESIGNED BY RDH
	CHECKED BY JTM	CITY PROJECT NO. C2026D01	SCALE 1" = 10'
	CITY OF ATASCADERO 9930 CARMELITA AVE, ATASCADERO, CA 94601	DRAWN BY RDH	DATE 04/27/2026



Figure 5 – Hydrology Map

