BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE EVALUATION

General Plan Amendment/Zone Change
Assessor's Parcel Map Number
524-160-09
County of Kern
Bakersfield, California

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pruett Biological Resource Consulting, Inc. (PruettBio) has prepared this biological resource evaluation for a proposed Site Plan Review of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 524-160-09**.** The project consists of 19.35 gross acres (7.83 hectares) (project) Section 36, Township 30 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project is located southwest of the intersection of McCutchen Road and Buena Vista Road, within the incorporated limits of the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, California.

The project is located within the geographic range of several federal-, and state-listed, threatened and/or endangered plant and animal taxa. Several non-listed, special-status species also have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project.

The purpose of this report is to document biological resources identified during a reconnaissance-level field study of the project site and include potential biological resources identified during a literature review of the site and vicinity, identify potential impacts to biological resources resulting from the project. Evaluation of potential impacts to plant and animal species are required under federal and state regulation during a General Plan Amendment (GPA) and Zone Change (ZC). California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Appendix G thresholds have been used to evaluate potential impacts to the biological resources from the proposed project development. Avoidance and minimization measures for implementation prior to and during project activities are recommended as appropriate.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have not been contacted regarding the preparation of this report. Appendix B, Special-Status Plant and Animal Evaluations, satisfy the requirements for an initial determination of potential impacts under the CEQA Appendix G thresholds. If CEQA threshold determinations warrant, further consultation may be required with CDFW and USFWS. If additional consultation with the agencies results in the need for Application for a California Incidental Take Permit, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2 outlines requirements for detailed species-specific take analysis, proposed measures to minimize and fully mitigate impacts, compliance monitoring, and funding. A detailed description satisfying Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2 is not required to meet the CEQA Appendix G thresholds.

A literature review was conducted of the site and vicinity, prior to the field study, of the biological resources known to occur based on recorded, direct observation, or potentially occurring in the project impact area based on current or historical habitat conditions. During the field study, existing habitat conditions, direct observations and/or species sign was recorded to assess the potential for occurrence of special-status species. This report includes an evaluation of the potential for those special-status biological resources not observed during the field study, with the potential to occur on the property based on the habitat conditions observed.

The project is in southwest Bakersfield in an area historically farmed. Urban development has increased along the margins of Metropolitan Bakersfield in the past 50 years and has resulted in the conversion of farmland to residential and commercial properties. The project includes a single-family residence surrounded by almond trees that are a part of an orchard. The project is surrounded by agricultural land. No undisturbed, native, or recovering habitat is present on the site or adjacent parcels.

The federal and state database queries yielded 18 special-status plant species and 36 special-status animal species as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site. Of these, 5 plant species, and 16 animal species have federal-, and/or state-listing and are afforded protection under federal or state law.

A query of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) database was made for the nine-quadrangles surrounding the project. The CNPS tracks plant species that do not meet the CEQA Section 15380 criteria for listing as threatened or endangered and are afforded no protection under federal or state law.

A USGS nine-quadrangle query additionally includes a search area beyond a standard 10-mile radius. Plant species meeting the criteria for Special Status Plants as defined in *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018) and evaluated under CEQA Section 15380 have been included in this report.

Some CRPR 4 taxa may meet the Section 15380 definition of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, and in the definition of CRPR 4, CNPS and CDFW suggest additional reasons for including CRPR 4 taxa in a CEQA analysis. These reasons include Regionally Rare Taxa. Considered locally significant plants, that is, plants that are not rare from a statewide perspective but are rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA Guidelines, § 15125, subd. (c)), or as designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). “Locally rare” has not been generally defined, but in counties where a “locally rare” policy exists, it applies to taxa with only five to 10 known occurrences in that county.

The CNDDB, iPac, and CNPS lists were cross-referenced for consistency. A separate CNDDB query for the County of Kern was also generated to evaluate plant species for local significance.

The project will not conflict with existing or adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, local or regional conservation plans, or local ordinances protecting biological resources.

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INTRODUCTION

Pruett Biological Resource Consulting, Inc. (PruettBio) has prepared this biological resource evaluation for the proposed development of APN 524-160-09**.** The project consists of 19.35 gross acres (7.83 hectares)(project) Section 36, Township 30 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project is southwest of the intersection of McCutchen Road and Buena Vista Road, within the incorporated limits of the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, California. The report documents biological resources identified during fieldwork conducted on the project site and those identified through a literature search as potentially occurring based on known observations or historic habitat conditions. The report uses the information collected during the field study and literature search to evaluate potential impacts to biological resources, resulting from the project. The report is intended to assist in the analysis of the proposed project for a Site Plan Review.

Listed plant and animal species are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Protection of other non-listed, special-status species is afforded under additional regulation including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impacts to non-listed, special-status species must be evaluated. Where necessary, the report recommends avoidance and minimization measures for implementation prior to and during project activities. The report is intended to provide technical information in support of a CEQA preliminary review. For the purposes of this report, potential impacts to the biological resources of the proposed project were evaluated in accordance with Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* (2025).

PROJECT LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The project consists of 19.35 gross acres (7.83 hectares) of APN 524-160-09. The project site is located southwest of the intersection of McCutchen Road and Buena Vista Road, Section 36, Township 30 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

PROJECT SETTING AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The project site is in the southern San Joaquin Valley; a broad, treeless plain in the rain shadow of the Inner Coast Ranges. The region's climate can be characterized as Mediterranean; with hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters. Summer high temperatures typically exceed 100 °Fahrenheit (°F); with an average of 110 days per year over 90 °F. Winter temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley are mild, with an average of only 16 days per year with frost (Twisselmann 1967).

Rainfall varies, increasing from west to east, with the west side of the valley receiving an average of around 4 inches (10 centimeters) per year and the east side averaging about 6 inches (15 centimeters) per year. Winter fog, called Tule fog, sometimes forms during the months of November, December, and January, supplementing the annual precipitation. Approximately 90% of the rainfall in the region occurs between November 1 and April 1. Drought cycles occur periodically, becoming severe enough that plant and animal populations can experience large fluctuations. The vegetation communities in the San Joaquin Valley are distinguishable from the Mojave Desert to the east due to Tule fog, higher humidity, and isolation from continental climatic influences by mountain ranges (Twisselmann 1967).

The general topography of the area is generally flat at about 342 feet (104 meters) above mean sea level. The project includes one single family residence with almond trees. The project is surrounded by almond orchards and a single-family residential development to the northeast. Historical aerial imagery going back to 1985 shows that the area has been historically farmed for decades. Aerial imagery shows that by 2003, construction began on the single-family residence on the property, while the margins of the property remained almond orchards. No undisturbed, native, or recovering habitat is present on the project site or adjacent parcels.

METHODS

LITERATURE REVIEW

PruettBio conducted a literature review to identify known observations and potential for listed, or otherwise special-status, species to occur in the vicinity of the project site. A standard, 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius query was performed. Database records reviewed included:

- **United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) iPac:** The iPac report generates a list of federal-listed species and other resources under the jurisdiction of the USFWS, including designated critical habitat for listed species, National Wildlife Refuge lands, and Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory. The list includes resources that are outside of the project site, but that have the potential to be impacted by project activities.

- **USFWS National Wetlands Inventory:** The Wetlands Mapper is an online inventory integrating digital map data and other resources to provide current information regarding the status of national wetlands, riparian, and deepwater habitats.

- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) WebSoil Survey:** The report is an online database providing soil data produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the USDA and other federal, state, and local agencies. The information drawn for the Soil Survey of Kern County, California, Northwestern Part was originally drawn from fieldwork completed in 1981 with soil names and descriptions approved in 1982.

- **California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB-RareFind 5):** The CNDDB is a database of listed, or otherwise special-status, plant and animal species and sensitive communities maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The information queried for this report included a standard 10-mile radius of the project site.

- **California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants:** CNPS is a private, professional organization that maintains a database evaluating the current conservation status of California's rare, threatened, and endangered plant species. The information queried for this report included a standard 10-mile radius of the project site. The list includes resources that are outside of the project site, but that have the potential to be impacted by project activities based on known historic or current habitat features. The data base was compared to the CNDDB and iPac queries for consistency.

FIELD STUDY

A reconnaissance-level, biological field study was conducted by Jacob Spriester on January 27, 2025. The project was surveyed by walking the perimeter and random transects to evaluate all representative habitat features of the site. The field study conducted, allowed for 100% visual coverage of the project site. Field notes included observations of all plant and wildlife species observed. Direct observations and/or species sign was recorded to assess the potential for occurrence. Land cover types and general habitat conditions were recorded and photographed. Special-status species and habitat features, such as vegetation communities or ephemeral channels, were also recorded and photographed if observed.

Coordinates for important biological resource elements and direct observations of special-status species were recorded using a handheld geographic positioning system unit. If observed, San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) dens were classified as defined by the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011). All plant taxa encountered were identified to the extent possible given the diagnostic features present. Identifications were made using keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* and online updates containing revisions to taxonomic treatments (Baldwin et al. 2012; Jepson Flora Project 2015).

RESULTS

This section summarizes the results of the field study conducted on the project site and evaluates those results for the known or potential for occurrence of special-status species based on the literature review and database queries and pursuant to statutory regulation. Discussions are provided describing the existing habitat conditions including vegetation communities, land cover and current use; soils; special-status biological resources potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project site; the potential for jurisdictional resources including designated critical habitat and riparian/wetland/water resource features; the potential for wildlife migration corridors and nursery sites; and regional and local policy.

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND LAND COVER

The project site is located at the west edge of urban development of Metropolitan Bakersfield. Before conversion to farmland, the original vegetive communities of the project site were Non-native Grassland (Holland 42200) and Valley Saltbush Scrub (Holland 36220). No undisturbed, native, or recovering habitat is present on the project site, adjacent parcels, or general vicinity of the project. The project includes one single family residence with almond trees that are a part of an almond orchard. The project is surrounded by agricultural land that are mostly almond orchards. Historical aerial imagery going back to 1985 that the area has been historically farmed for decades. Aerial imagery shows that by 2003, the development of the single-family residence the project had begun. No undisturbed, native, or recovering habitat is present on the project site or adjacent parcels. The potential for any native herbaceous species is extremely low due to ongoing disturbance. The project site and margins are dominated by ruderal/invasive plant species.

SOILS

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Description
174	Kimberlina fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	This soil is alluvium derived from igneous and sedimentary rock sources found on alluvial fans. It is comprised of fine sandy loam and silt loam to a depth of about 71 inches. The depth to the restrictive feature is more than 80 inches and the available water storage in profile is listed as moderate (about 8.7 inches)

Source: NRCS 2025

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The literature review and database queries yielded 18 special-status plant species as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site. 36 animal species were identified as potentially occurring in the region of the project site. No evidence of any listed animal species was observed during the field study. No evidence of any locally rare plant or animal species was observed. No evidence of otherwise special-status plant or animal species, or animal species sign was observed during the field study.

No focused, protocol-level surveys were conducted for the preparation of this report. The field study was conducted outside of the blooming period for many of the special-status plant species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the project. The evaluation of special-status species that were found during the literature review with a potential to occur in the region are included in Appendix B.

Special-Status Plant Species

The federal and state database queries yielded 18 special-status plant species as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site. A query of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) database was made for the nine-quadrangles surrounding the project. A USGS nine-quadrangle query additionally

includes a search area beyond a standard 10-mile radius. Plant species meeting the criteria for Special Status Plants as defined in *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018) were evaluated under CEQA Section 15380.

Special-status plant species considered in this evaluation include all plant species that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under ESA or candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA (50 CFR §17.12).

- Listed or candidates for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under CESA (Fish and Game Code §2050 et seq.). A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is endangered when the prospects of its survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, disease, or other factors (Fish and Game Code §2062). A plant is threatened when it is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection and management measures (Fish and Game Code §2067).

- Listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.). A plant is rare when, although not presently threatened with extinction, the species, subspecies, or variety is found in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens (Fish and Game Code §1901).

- Meet the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA §15380(b) and (d). Species that may meet the definition of rare or endangered include the following:
    - Species considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be “rare, threatened or endangered in California” (Lists 1A, 1B and 2);
    - Species that may warrant consideration on the basis of local significance or recent biological information.
    - Some species included on the California Natural Diversity Database’s (CNDDB) Special Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (California Department of Fish and Game 2008).

- Considered a locally significant species, that is, a species that is not rare from a statewide perspective but is rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA §15125 (c)) or is so designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). Examples include a species at the outer limits of its known range or a species occurring on an uncommon soil type.

Some CRPR 4 taxa may meet the Section 15380 definition of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, and in the definition of CRPR 4, CNPS and CDFW suggest additional reasons for including CRPR 4 taxa in a CEQA analysis. These reasons include Regionally Rare Taxa. Considered locally significant plants, that is, plants that are not rare from a statewide perspective but are rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA Guidelines, § 15125, subd. (c)), or as designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). “Locally rare” has not been generally defined, but in counties where a “locally rare” policy exists, it applies to taxa with only five to 10 known occurrences in that county. The CNDDB, iPac, and CNPS lists were cross-referenced for consistency.

Of the 18 special-status plant species returned during database queries for the project vicinity, 5 species are either federally- or state-listed as threatened or endangered. Although CEQA requires consideration for impacts to locally significant plant species, no mitigation is legally required to compensate for impacts to non-listed plant species. No listed, or otherwise special-status plant species was observed during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report. No listed, or otherwise special-status plant species, has been recorded as occurring within the project site.

Special-Status Animal Species

The federal and state database queries yielded 36 special-status animal species as potentially occurring within the vicinity of the project site. Of these, 16 animal species have federal-, and/or state-listing and are afforded protection under federal or state law. Special-status animal species considered in this evaluation include those that may occur in the project vicinity that have statutory protections. This includes federal- and state-listed (rare, threatened, or endangered; fully protected) species and candidates for listing under the respective endangered species acts. Species that are of special concern to the CDFW or the USFWS are included in this evaluation. Special-status bird species that are afforded protection under the MBTA which may nest on or within an approximate 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius of the project site are also evaluated. No evidence of any listed animal species was observed during the field study. No evidence of otherwise special-status animal species, or animal species sign was observed during the field study.

Designated Critical Habitat

The USFWS iPac report and USFWS Designated Critical Habitat Mapper lists no Designated Critical Habitat (USFWS 2025). Designated Critical Habitats closest to the project site include California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) approximately 23-miles south/southeast and Buena Vista Lake shrew (*Sorex ornatus relictus*) approximately 10-miles west of the project site. No suitable habitat for either species exists on the project site.

Jurisdictional Water Resource Features

Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates discharge of dredged and fill material into Waters of the United States. Wetlands are included under this jurisdiction. Proposed activities that may result in discharge of material into Waters of the U.S. require a permit review process by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as set forth under CWA section 404(b)(1). Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify CDFW before beginning any activity that will substantially modify a river, stream, or lake.

A search of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory resulted in no riparian, wetlands, or other jurisdictional water features mapped on the project site (USFWS 2025). These results are consistent with the observed conditions within the survey area.

Special-Status Natural Communities

No special-status vegetation communities on the project site were identified by the USFWS iPac query, the CNDDB, or the CNPS Inventory (USFWS 2025, CDFW 2025, CNPS 2025). These results are consistent with the observed conditions within the survey area.

Wildlife Migration Corridors and Nursery Sites

Wildlife corridors can be defined as connections between wildlife blocks that meet specific habitat needs for species movement generally during migratory periods but seasonally as well. Wildlife corridors generally contain habitat dissimilar to the surrounding vicinity and include examples such as riparian areas along rivers and streams, washes, canyons, or otherwise undisturbed areas within urbanization. Corridor width requirements can vary based on the needs of the species utilizing them. Development of the project would not impact wildlife migration corridors or nursery sites.

Regional and Local Policies

The proposed, modified project will not conflict with existing or adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, local or regional conservation plans, or local ordinances protecting biological resources.

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

CEQA Appendix G thresholds have been used to evaluate potential impacts to the biological resources from the proposed project. Appendix G provides an analysis of the impacts of the proposed project following the standards of CEQA and provides recommendations that, when implemented, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. It is important to note that potential take of any federal- or state-listed species from project activities would require contacting the appropriate wildlife agency (the USFWS and/or the CDFW).

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have not been contacted regarding the preparation of this report. Appendix B, Special-Status Plant and Animal Evaluations, satisfy the requirements for an initial determination of potential impacts under the CEQA Appendix G thresholds. If CEQA threshold determinations warrant, further consultation may be required with CDFW and USFWS. If additional consultation with the agencies results in the need for Application for a California Incidental Take Permit, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2 outlines requirements for detailed species-specific take analysis, proposed measures to minimize and fully mitigate impacts, compliance monitoring, and funding. A detailed description satisfying Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 783.2 is not required to meet the CEQA Appendix G thresholds.

The project would create a significant impact to biological resources, based on the specifications in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, if the following were to occur:

1. 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

3. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

4. 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;

5. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance;

6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The following analysis discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the project and provides recommendations where appropriate to further reduce potential impacts.

1. Would the project 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, by the CDFW, or the USFWS?

Direct and indirect impacts, in the form of "incidental take" of a threatened, endangered, or otherwise protected species, are not expected as a result of the development of the proposed project. Implementation of standard measures for the protection of biological resources are recommended to avoid and minimize potential impact to general wildlife. These measures include, but may not be limited to:

- A biological resource pre-activity survey conducted by a qualified biologist no more that 30-days before the start of construction activities,
- Biological resource monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance,
- Compliance reporting provided to the required oversight agencies for all biological resource field surveys, monitoring, and additional tasks as warranted.

If known or natal SJKF dens are identified at any time during construction, protocols enumerated in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate agencies contacted for guidance.

The project is within the historic range of Tipton kangaroo rat. The project was not included in the southwest focus area for the species in the previous habitat conservation plan. The most recent habitat suitability modeling (Cypher 2021) does not include the project in any of the four tiers enumerated for suitability. Trapping would be required to confirm small mammal species occupying the project.

2. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the CDFW or the USFWS?

No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service exists on the project site. No adverse effect will occur as a result of the development of the proposed project and no mitigation measures are recommended.

3. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No features, identified in wetland categories, appear on the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory mapping (USFWS 2025) on the proposed project site. No federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act were identified during the field study conducted for the preparation of this report. No substantial adverse effect will occur as a result of the development of the project. No mitigation measures are recommended.

4. Would the project 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?

No migratory wildlife corridors were identified during the literature search or field study. The project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native fish of wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. The following recommendations are provided for the general protection of bird species that may occur on the project site or vicinity in compliance with the MBTA:

If ground-disturbing activities are planned during the nesting season for migratory birds that may nest on or near the site (generally February 1 through August 31), nesting bird surveys are recommended prior to the commencement of ground disturbance for project activities. If nesting birds are present, no new construction or ground disturbance should occur within an appropriate avoidance area for that species until young have fledged, unless otherwise approved and monitored by a qualified onsite biologist. Appropriate avoidance should be determined by a qualified biologist. In general, minimum avoidance

zones for active nests should be implemented as follows: 1) ground or low-shrub nesting non-raptors – 300 feet (91 meters); 2) burrowing owl – as appropriate based on nest location, existing surrounding activity, and evaluation of owl behavior. Coordination with CDFW may be warranted. 3) Sensitive raptors (e.g., prairie falcon, golden eagle) – 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers); 3) other raptors – 500 feet (152 meters).

5. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

There are no biological resources on the site which are protected by local policies. Impacts from conflicts with local policies will not occur. No additional mitigation measures are recommended.

6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The project does not conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No additional mitigation measures are recommended.

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES

The following Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM) represent the authors professional opinion regarding reducing the probability of take occurring during project activities. The following AMMs are generally regarded as best management practices during construction activities in the southern San Joaquin valley, however they are not a substitute for procuring the appropriate state and federal permits to allow for take of special-status species during project activities and do not provide coverage should take occur during project activities. Communication with state and federal agencies regarding proposed AMMS is recommended prior to initial ground disturbance to fully comply with FESA, CESA, and CEQA.

These measures include, but may not be limited to:

- A biological resource pre-activity survey conducted by a qualified biologist no more that 30-days before the start of construction activities,
- Biological resource monitoring during each initial phase of ground disturbance,
- Compliance reporting provided to the required oversight agencies for all biological resource field surveys, monitoring, and additional tasks as warranted,
- A Worker Environmental Awareness Program outlining special-status species that may access, use or otherwise transverse the project area will be implemented,
- If known or natal SJKF dens are identified at any time during construction, protocols enumerated in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011) should be implemented, and the appropriate agencies contacted for guidance.
- Vertical sided trenching deeper than 2-feet will include escape ramps at no more than a 1:1 ratio every 100 feet,
- Vertical sided holes that are not capable of being ramped should be covered or otherwise secured to the greatest extent practicable
- Pipes, conduit and similar material 3 inches or greater should be capped to prevent wildlife from becoming inadvertently trapped in the piping

The following recommendations are provided for the general protection of bird species that may occur on the project site or vicinity in compliance with the MBTA:

If ground-disturbing activities are planned during the nesting season for migratory birds that may nest on or near the site (generally February 1 through August 31), nesting bird surveys are recommended prior to the commencement of ground disturbance for project activities. If nesting birds are present, no new construction or ground disturbance should occur within an appropriate avoidance area for that species until young have fledged, unless otherwise approved and monitored by a qualified onsite biologist. Appropriate avoidance should be determined by a qualified biologist. In general, minimum avoidance zones for active nests should be implemented as follows:

1) Ground or low-shrub nesting non-raptors – 300 feet (91 meters),
2) Burrowing owl – as appropriate based on nest location, existing surrounding activity, and evaluation of owl behavior. Coordination with CDFW may be warranted,
3) Sensitive raptors (e.g., prairie falcon, golden eagle) – 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers),
4) Other raptors – 500 feet (152 meters).

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APPENDIX A

PROJECT VICINTY AND SITE

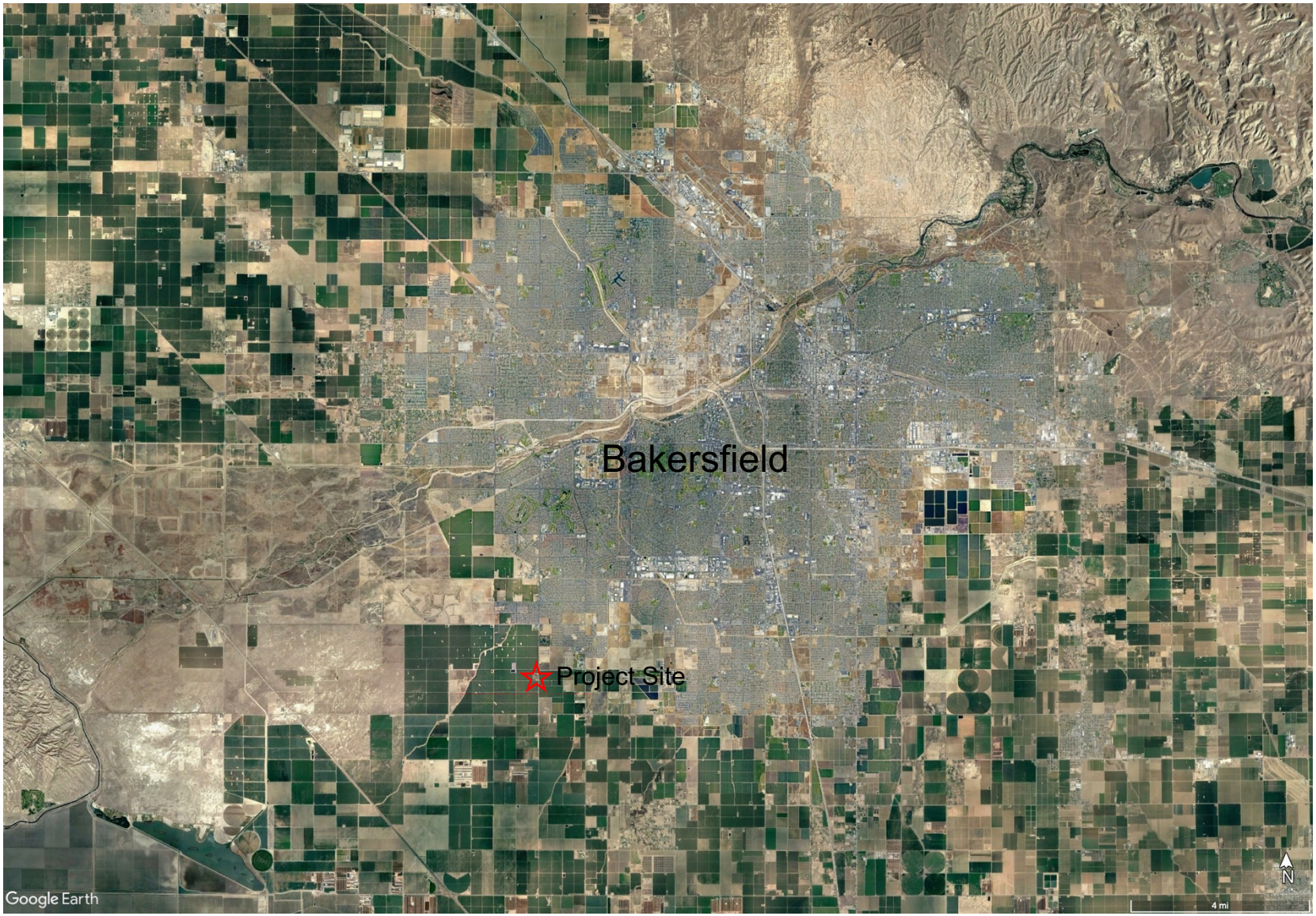


Figure A-1. Aerial photograph of the project and vicinity (Google Earth Pro 2025).



Figure A-2. Aerial photograph of the project and vicinity (Google Earth Pro 2025).

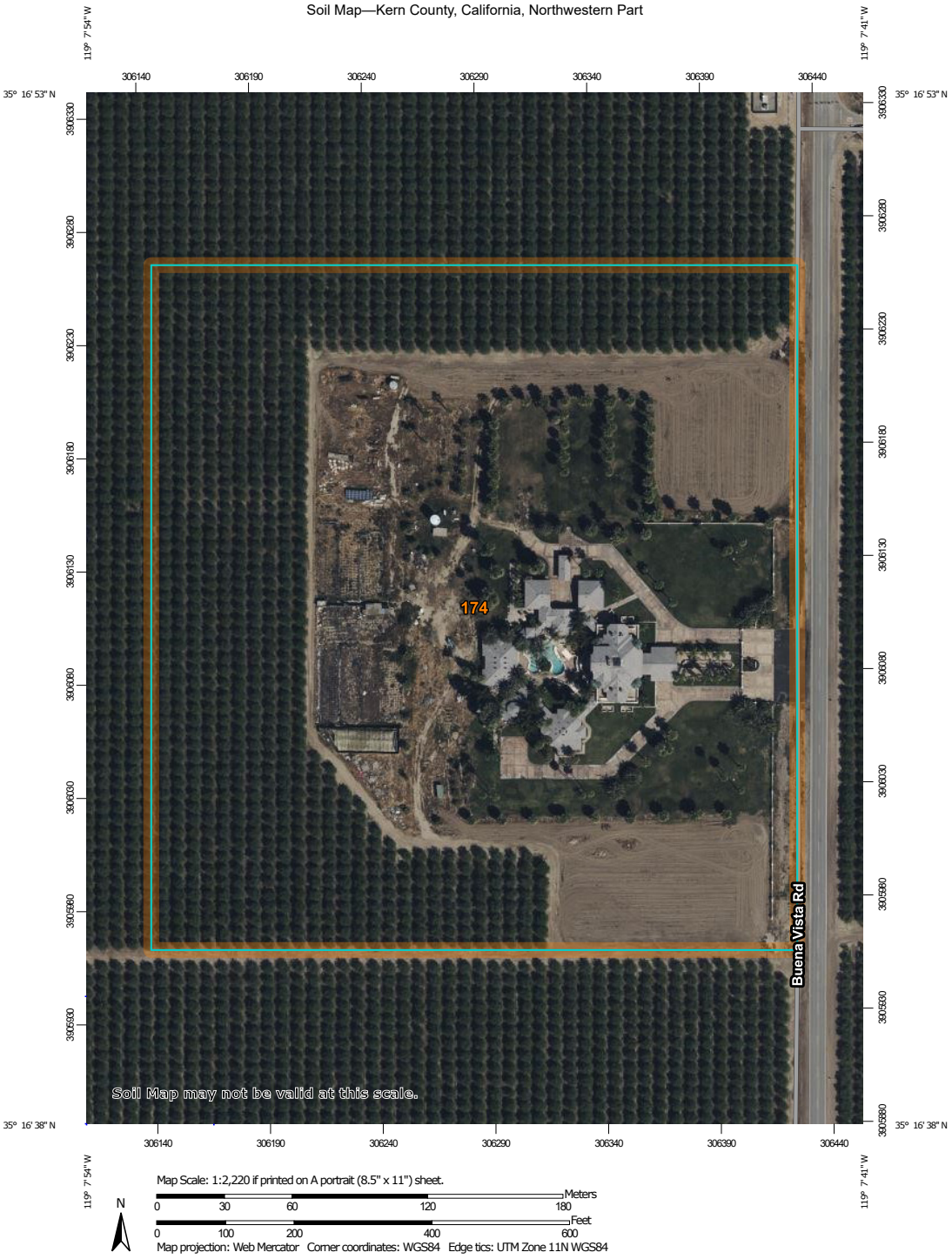


Figure A-3 Soil map of the project site (USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service 2025).



Figure A-4. Photograph of the project site taken from the NE corner facing S (27Jan25).



Figure A-5. Photograph of the project site taken from near the SE corner facing W (27Jan25).



Figure A-6. Photograph of the project site from near the NW corner facing S (27Jan25).



Figure A-7. Photograph of the project site taken from the SW corner facing N (27Jan25).

APPENDIX B

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND ANIMAL EVALUATION

Table B-1: Special-status Plants That May Occur in the Vicinity of the Project.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Fed/State/CNPS**	**Description**	**Blooming Period**	**Field Study Results/Potential for Occurrence**
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii* Horn's milk vetch	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Fabaceae found in meadows and seeps and on playas and lake margins on alkaline soils between 197 and 2,790 feet (60–850 meters) in elevation. Known from occurrences in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, the Tehachapi Mountains and the Western Transverse Ranges in Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties.	May to October	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Atriplex cordulata var. *cordulata* Heartscale	S/-/1B.2	Herbaceous annual in the Chenopodiaceae found in chenopod scrub, meadows and weeps, and valley and foothill grasslands in sandy, saline or alkaline soils below 1,837 feet (560 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Great Central Valley from Kern County north to Southern Butte County.	April to October	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Atriplex coronata var. *vallicola* Lost Hills crownscale	S/-/1B.2	Herbaceous annual in the Chenopodiaceae found in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pool habitats on alkaline soils between 165 and 2,085 feet (50–635 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare Counties.	April to September	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Atriplex tularensis Bakersfield smallscale	-/E/1A	Annual herb in the Chenopodiaceae found in chenopod scrub habitat between 295 and 655 feet (90–200 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Kern County.	June to October	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Calochortus striatus Alkali mariposa-lily	S/-/1B.2	Bulbiferous perennial herb in the Liliaceae found in chaparral, chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, and Mojavean desert scrub in alkaline and mesic soils between 230 and 5235 feet (70–1,595 meters). Known to occur in the Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Tulare Counties.	April to June	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Caulanthus californicus California jewelflower	E/E/1B.1	Annual herb in the Brassicaceae family found in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats on sandy soils between 200 and 3,280 feet (61 – 1000) in elevation. Known to occur in Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Tulare Counties.	February to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Fed/State/CNPS**	**Description**	**Blooming Period**	**Field Study Results/Potential for Occurrence**
Chloropyron molle ssp. *hispidum* Hispid bird's-beak	S/-/1B.1	Hemiparasitic annual herb in the Orobanchaceae family found in meadows and sweeps, playas, and valley and foothill grasslands on alkaline soils below 510 feet (155 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Alameda, Kern, Merced, Placer, and Solano Counties.	June to September	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Cirsium crassicaule Slough thistle	S/-/1B.1	Annual or perennial herb in the Asteraceae family found in chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps (sloughs), and riparian scrub below 330 feet (100 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern, Kings, and San Joaquin Counties.	May to August	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Delphinium recurvatum Recurved larkspur	S/-/1B.2	Perennial herb in the Ranunculaceae family found in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats below 2,590 feet (790 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern and Tulare Counties.	March to June	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Eremalche parryi ssp. *kernensis* Kern mallow	E/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Malvaceae family found in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats in clay, dry, openings, and sandy soils often at the edge of balds between 230 and 4,230 feet (70 – 1,290 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern, Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura Counties.	January to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Eschscholzia lemmonii ssp. *kernensis* Tejon poppy	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Papaveraceae family found in valley foothill and grasslands and chenopod scrub, generally on loose, calcareous soils between 525 and 3,280 feet (200–1,000 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties.	Sometimes February, March to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Expected elevation range is higher than the project site. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Imperata brevifolia California satintail	-/-/2B.1	Perennial, rhizomatous herb in the Poaceae family found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, meadow and seeps, Mojavean desert scrub, and riparian scrub habitats on mesic and alkaline soils below 3,985 feet (1,215 meters). Known to occur in Butte, Lake, Fresno, Tulare, Inyo, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Bernadino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial Counties.	September to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Fed/State/CNPS**	**Description**	**Blooming Period**	**Field Study Results/Potential for Occurrence**
Lasthenia chrysantha Alkali-sink goldfields	-/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae family found in vernal pools on alkaline soils at elevations below 665 feet (200 meters). Known to occur in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Sacramento, Solano, Stanislaus, and Tulare Counties.	February to April	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* Coulter's goldfields	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae family found in vernal pools, marshes and swamps, playas, and saline places at elevations below 4,005 feet (1,220 meters). Known to occur in Colusa, Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Solano, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura, and Yolo Counties.	February to June	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Monolopia congdonii San Joaquin woolly-threads	E/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Asteraceae family found in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland habitats on sandy soils between 195 and 2,625 feet (60 – 800 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Fresno, Kern, Kings, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Tulare Counties.	February to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Opuntia basilaris var. *treleasei* Bakersfield cactus	E/E/1B.1	Perennial stem succulent in the Cactaceae family found in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands between 330 and 4,755 feet (100–1450 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Southeast San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills in Kern County.	April to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Stylocline citroleum Oil neststraw	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae family found in chenopod scrub, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland on clay soils between 165 and 1,310 feet (50 – 400 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern and San Diego Counties.	March to April	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.
Stylocline masonii Mason's neststraw	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae family found in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grasslands on sandy soils between 330 and 3,935 feet (100–1,200 meters) in elevation. Known from locations in Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties.	March to May	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Decades of intensive farming has resulted in vegetation limited to invasive/ruderal species.

STATUS: Federal and State Listing Code
- D Delisted
- E Federally or State-listed Endangered
- T Federally or State-listed Threatened

CNPS
- 1A Plants presumed extirpated in California, and either rare or extinct elsewhere

1B.1 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California
1B.2 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly threatened in California
2B.1 Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; seriously threatened in California

Table B-2: Special-status Animals That May Occur in the Vicinity of the Project.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Survey Results/Regional or Nearest Occurrence***
Invertebrates			
Bombus crotchii Crotch's bumble bee	-/C	Occurs in grasslands and shrublands in the Mediterranean region, Pacific coast, western desert, and adjacent foothills throughout California's southwest region. Food plant genera include but is not limited to *Antirrhinum*, *Clarkia*, *Eriogonum*. and *Phacelia.*	**Not Observed/Not Expected.** No known records in the vicinity of the project. Marginal habitat present on the project.
Branchinect lynchi Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T/-	Found in vernal pools throughout California. Exist as cysts during the dry season and reproduce when pools are filled with water again.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Danaus plexippus Monarch butterfly	PT/-	Occur for migration between San Diego and British Colombia. *Asclepias spp*. are used for egg laying throughout the range and are a crucial part of their life cycle.	**Not Observed/Not Expected.** No known records in the vicinity of the project. No *Asclepias spp.* observed on the project.
Amphibians			
Spea hammondii Western spadefoot	PT/CSC	Central valley and adjacent foothills, Coast Ranges from Point Conception south to the Mexico border; valley-foothill grasslands and valley-foothill hardwood, shallow temporary pools used for breeding, below 4,472 feet (1,363 meters).	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. No known records in the vicinity of the project. Marginal habitat present on the project.
Reptiles			
Actinemys marmorata Northwestern pond turtle	PT/CSC	Completely aquatic requiring calm waters such as pools or streams with vegetation banks or logs for basking. Will utilize upland habitat up to about 0.5 km from water.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Anniella grinnelli Bakersfield legless lizard	-/CSC	Lives mostly underground and burrows in loose, sandy soil in beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Restricted to the southern San Joaquin Valley and the east side of the Carrizo Plain, including within Bakersfield city limits.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Anniella spp. California legless lizard	-/CSC	Found in coastal dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, and sandy washes in warm moist loose soils, below 5,085 feet (1550 meters).	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Arizona elegans occidentalis California glossy snake	-/CSC	Found in low elevation scrub, grasslands and chaparral habitats.	**Not Observed/Low Probability of Occurrence.** One occurrence from 1946 1.3 miles away with an accuracy of 1 mile, but no suitable habitat is present on the project.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status** **Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Survey Results/Regional or Nearest Occurrence***
Gambelia sila Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL)	E/E,SFP	Found only in the San Joaquin Valley, adjacent Carrizo Plain, Elkhorn Plain, Cuyama Valley, and Panoche Valley; inhabits sparsely vegetated plains, lower canyon slopes, on valley floors, and washes; open grassland, saltbush scrub, and alkali sink are more common habitat types.	**Not Present.** No suitable habitat present.
Masticophis flagellum ruddocki San Joaquin coachwhip	-/CSC	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in open, dry habitats. Associated with valley grassland and saltbush scrub habitats containing small mammal burrows which are used for refugia and oviposition sites.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Phrynosoma blainvillii Coast horned lizard	S/CSC	Inhabits valley-foothill hardwood, coniferous and riparian, as well as pine-cypress, juniper, and annual grasslands, in Sierra Nevada below 3,937 feet (1,200 meters) and in mountains of Southern California and into the adjacent valleys.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Thamnophis gigas Giant gartersnake	T/T	Found in areas of freshwater marshes or low-gradient streams. Can also be found in human-made habitats, such as drainage canals and irrigation ditches, especially those associated with rice farming.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present. Species believed to be extirpated from Kern County.
Birds			
Agelaius tricolor Tricolored blackbird	S/CSC	Forages in grasslands, wetlands, rice fields, croplands, and weedy uplands dominated by mustards and thistles, etc.; breeds in marshes containing heavy growth of bulrushes, cattails, and blackberries; found throughout the Central Valley.	**Not Observed/Low Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. No suitable nesting habitat on the site. Potential for marginal foraging habitat in farmlands in the vicinity of the project.
Athene cunicularia Burrowing owl	-/C	Inhabits dry, open grasslands, rolling hills, desert floors, prairies, savannas, agricultural land, and other areas of open, bare ground. These owls will also inhabit open areas near human habitation, such as airports, golf courses, shoulders of roads, railroad embankments, and the banks of irrigation ditches and reservoirs.	**Not Observed/Moderate Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. Low quality nesting habitat on the site including open areas, irrigation ditches, and road shoulders.
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	S/T	Riparian and sometimes large isolated trees used for nesting; grasslands and agricultural lands used for foraging; in California, breeds primarily in the Sacramento Valley, with occasional nesting to the south through Kern County; migrate through the Central and San Joaquin Valleys to their wintering grounds in South America.	**Not Observed/Low Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. No suitable nesting sites on the project. Low suitable foraging habitat exists across the row-crop farmland south of metropolitan Bakersfield.
Charadrius montanus Mountain plover	S/CSC	Nest in prairies and semi-arid saltbush habitats and in recently plowed or fallow agricultural fields between 2,100 and 10,663 feet. Often nest around prairie-dog towns.	**Not Present**. No suitable wintering habitat or foraging habitat exists on the project.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Survey Results/Regional or Nearest Occurrence***
Charadrius nivosus nivosus Western snowy plover	T/CSC	Nests, feeds, and takes cover on sandy or gravelly beaches along the coast, on estuarine salt ponds, alkali lakes, and at the Salton Sea. On the Pacific coast, it nests on barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, and river bars.	**Not Present**. No suitable wintering habitat or foraging habitat exists on the project.
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis Western yellow-billed cuckoo	T/E	Nests in walnut and almond orchards in California, natural nesting habitat is in cottonwood-tree willow riparian forest. Known populations of breeding western yellow-billed cuckoo are several disjunct locations in California, Arizona, and western New Mexico.	**Not Observed/Moderate Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. Suitable nesting habitat for this species on the project. Natural nesting habitat does not occur within the vicinity of the project.
Dendrocygna bicolor *Fulvous whistling duck*	-/CSC	Nests in fresh emergent wetlands and quiet riverine waters. Uncommon to fairly common in the San Joaquin Valley, April to November.	**Not Present**. No suitable nesting habitat exists on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat.
Elanus leucurus White tailed kite	S/SFP	Associated habitats include open grasslands, savannahs, agriculture, wetlands, oak woodland and riparian areas with associated open space.	**Not Observed/Moderate Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. Suitable nesting site on the project. Suitable foraging habitat exists across the row-crop farmland south of metropolitan Bakersfield.
Eremophila alpestris actica California horned lark	-/WL	Resident throughout California from the coast to the deserts up to alpine dwarf-shrub habitat above tree line	**Not Observed/Moderate Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. Horned lark occur throughout the southern San Joaquin Valley and undoubtedly forage in the project vicinity.
Gymnogyps californianus California condor	E/E,SFP	Forages over large expanses of land including but not limited to, grasslands, foothills, coastal mountain ranges. Nests on cliff faces, large trees or manmade structures.	**Not Observed/Low Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity.** No suitable nesting habitat on the site. Potential for marginal foraging habitat in farmlands in the vicinity of the project.
Plegadis chihi White-faced ibis	-/WL	Nesting associated with large emergent wetlands. Will forage in a variety of wet meadows, irrigated pastures, flooded pond edges and wet cropland.	**Not Present**. No suitable nesting habitat exists on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat.
Toxostoma lecontei Le Conte's thrasher	S/CSC	Occurs in low, sandy, open desert floors dominated by shrubs or cacti. Nest in cacti or thorny bushes, usually at the edge of dry streambeds.	**Not Present**. No suitable nesting habitat exists on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat.
Vireo bellii pusillus Least Bell's vireo	E/E	Occurs in riparian habitat along slow-moving, meandering rivers of southern California. Requires dense riparian shrubbery for nesting.	**Not Present**. No suitable nesting habitat exists on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Survey Results/Regional or Nearest Occurrence***
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus Yellow-headed blackbird	-/CSC	Yellow-headed blackbirds are found in freshwater marshes during the summer. They particularly like to live among cattails, tule, and bulrush. During migration and over winter months, the Yellow-headed Blackbird is found in open, cultivated lands, in fields, and in pastures.	**Not Present**. No suitable nesting habitat exists on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat.
Mammals			
Ammospermophilus nelsoni San Joaquin antelope squirrel	-/T	Found in grasslands or open shrublands; formerly more extensive, current range includes southwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley and in adjacent valleys to the west.	**Not Present**. Beyond the current published range of the species.
Dipodomys ingens Giant kangaroo rat	E/E	Western side of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Carrizo Plain and the Panoche Valley; grassland and shrub-land habitats with sparse vegetative cover and soils that are well-drained, fine sandy loams with gentle slopes.	**Not Present**. Beyond the current published range of the species.
Dipodomys nitratoides brevinasus Short-nosed kangaroo rat	S/CSC	Found in arid communities on the valley floor portions of Kern, Tulare, and Kings counties in scrub and grassland communities in level to near-level terrain with alluvial fan-floodplain soil (fine sands and sandy loams) with sparse grasses and woody vegetation such as iodine bush, saltbush, seep weed, and mesquite.	**Not Present**. Beyond the published range of the species.
Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides Tipton kangaroo rat	E/E	Found in arid communities on the valley floor portions of Kern, Tulare, and Kings counties in scrub and grassland communities in level to near-level terrain with alluvial fan-floodplain soil (fine sands and sandy loams) with sparse grasses and woody vegetation such as iodine bush, saltbush, seep weed, and mesquite.	**Not Observed/Low Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. Within the historical range of Tipton kangaroo rat. Habitat not suitable for Tipton kangaroo rat. The project is not within the southwest focus area of the previous Habitat Conservation Plan. Small mammal trapping would be required to determine species occupation.
Eumops perotis californicus Western mastiff bat	S/CSC	Open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, annual and perennial grasslands, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban areas; roosts in cliff faces, as well as high buildings, trees, and tunnels; uncommon resident in southwestern San Joaquin Valley.	**No Roosting Sites Present.** No known occurrences in the vicinity of the project. Information on some bat species indicates foraging may occur over 10's of miles from roosting sites. Impacts not expected.
Onychomys torridus tularensis Tulare grasshopper mouse	S/CSC	Found in valley grasslands habitats, blue oak savanna, desert associations dominated by annual grasses and California ephedra, alkali sink scrub, saltbush scrub,	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Beyond the current published range of the species.

Scientific Name **Common Name**	**Status Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Survey Results/Regional or Nearest Occurrence***
		and upper Sonoran shrub associations, dominated by ephedra.	
Perognathus inornatus inornatus San Joaquin pocket mouse	S/-	Found in west-central California in the Upper Sacramento Valley, Tehama County, southward through the San Joaquin and Salinas valleys and contiguous areas to the Mojave Desert in Los Angeles, Kern and extreme western San Bernardino counties. Inhabits dry, open, grassy or weedy areas and annual grasslands, savannas, and desert-scrub associations with sandy washes or finely textured soils.	**Not Observed/Not Expected**. Beyond the current published range of the species.
Sorex ornatus relictus Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew	E/CSC	Formerly occupied marshlands of the San Joaquin Valley and the Tulare Basin. Its range has become much restricted due to the loss of lakes and sloughs in the area. It has been recorded from the Kern Lake Preserve area and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Current distribution is unknown but likely to be very restricted due to the loss of habitat.	**Not Present**. No suitable habitat present.
Taxidea taxus American badger	-/CSC	Uncommon resident found through California; in less disturbed grassland and shrubland habitats in San Joaquin Valley.	**Not Present** No suitable habitat.
Vulpes macrotis mutica San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF)	E/T	Found in valley saltbush scrub, valley sink scrub, Interior Coast Range saltbush scrub, upper Sonoran sub-shrub scrub, non-native grassland, and valley sacaton grassland in the Central Valley and adjacent foothills and valleys, infrequently to the outer Coast Ranges; generally not found in densely wooded areas, wetland areas, or areas subject to frequent periodic flooding.	**Not Observed/Moderate Probability of Occurrence in the Project Vicinity**. No potential, known, or natal dens were observed. SJKF known to occur within Metropolitan Bakersfield.

STATUS:

Federal
S Listed as a BLM Sensitive Species
D Delisted
E Listed as Endangered
PT Proposed as Threatened
T Listed as Threatened
C Candidate for Endangered Status

State
CSC California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designated Species of Special Concern
D Delisted
E Listed as Endangered
SFP California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designated Fully Protected
T Listed as Threatened

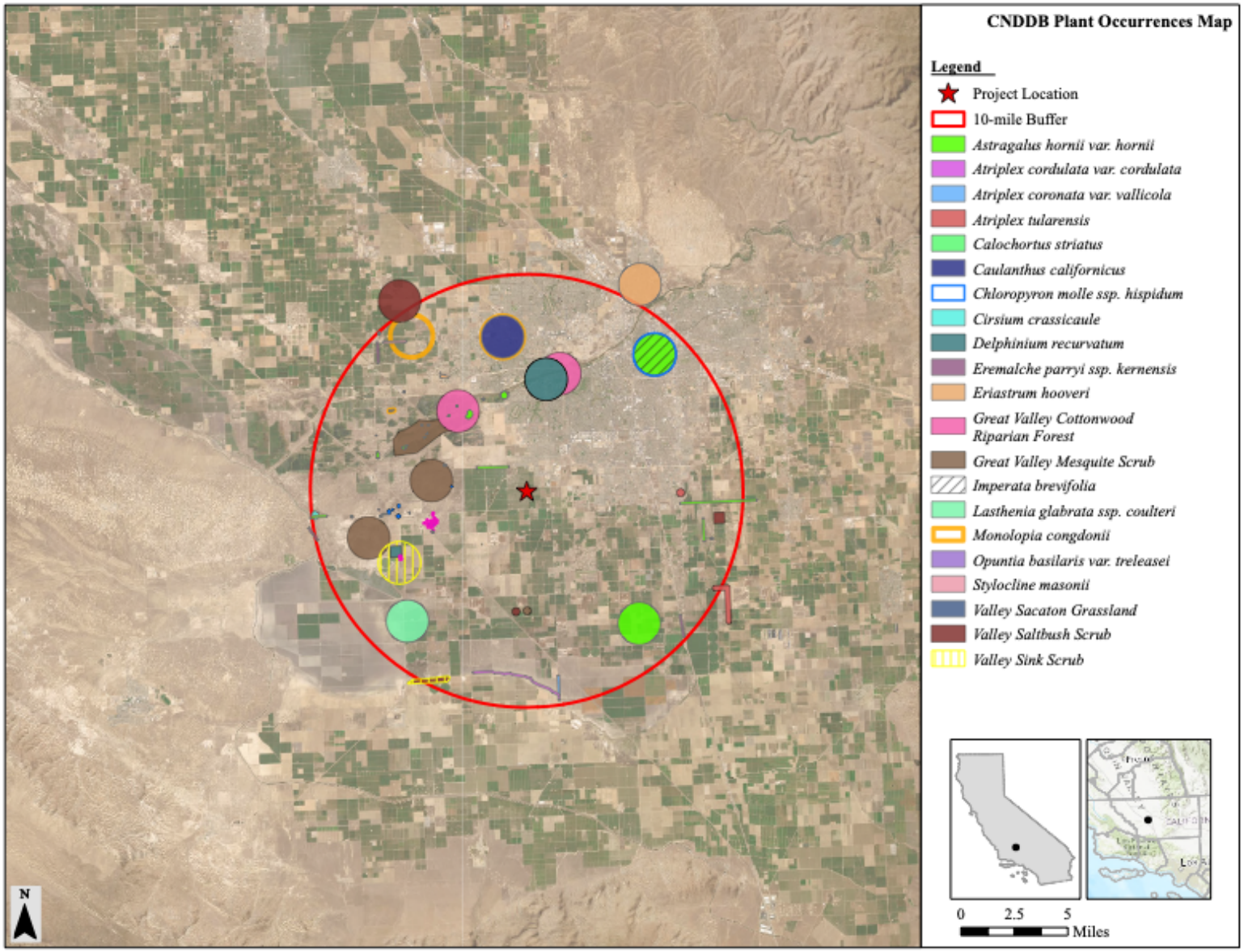


Figure B-1. CNDDB special-status plant species occurrences within a 10-mile radius of the project (CDFW 2025).

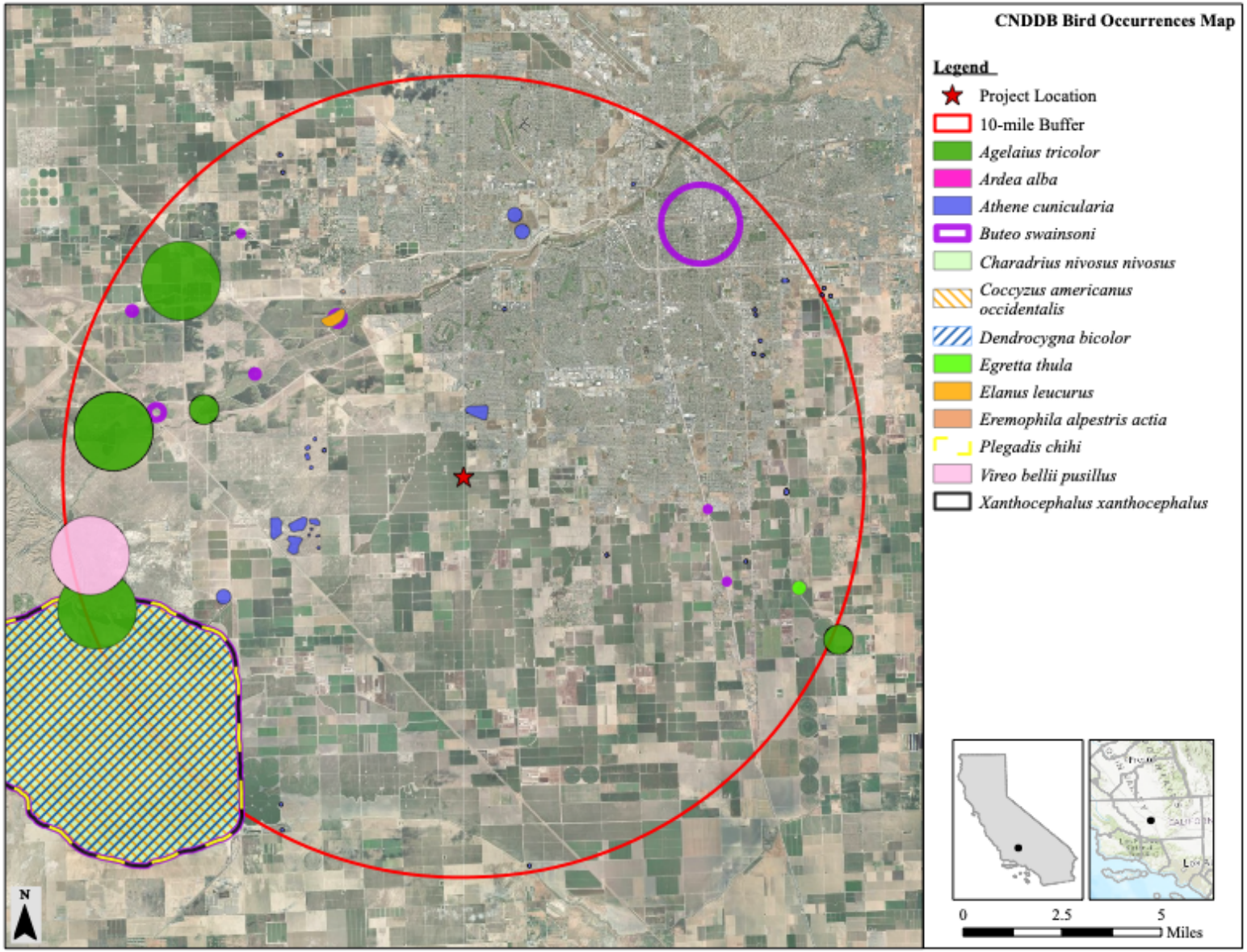


Figure B-2. CNDDB special-status bird species occurrences within a 10-mile radius of the project (CDFW 2025).

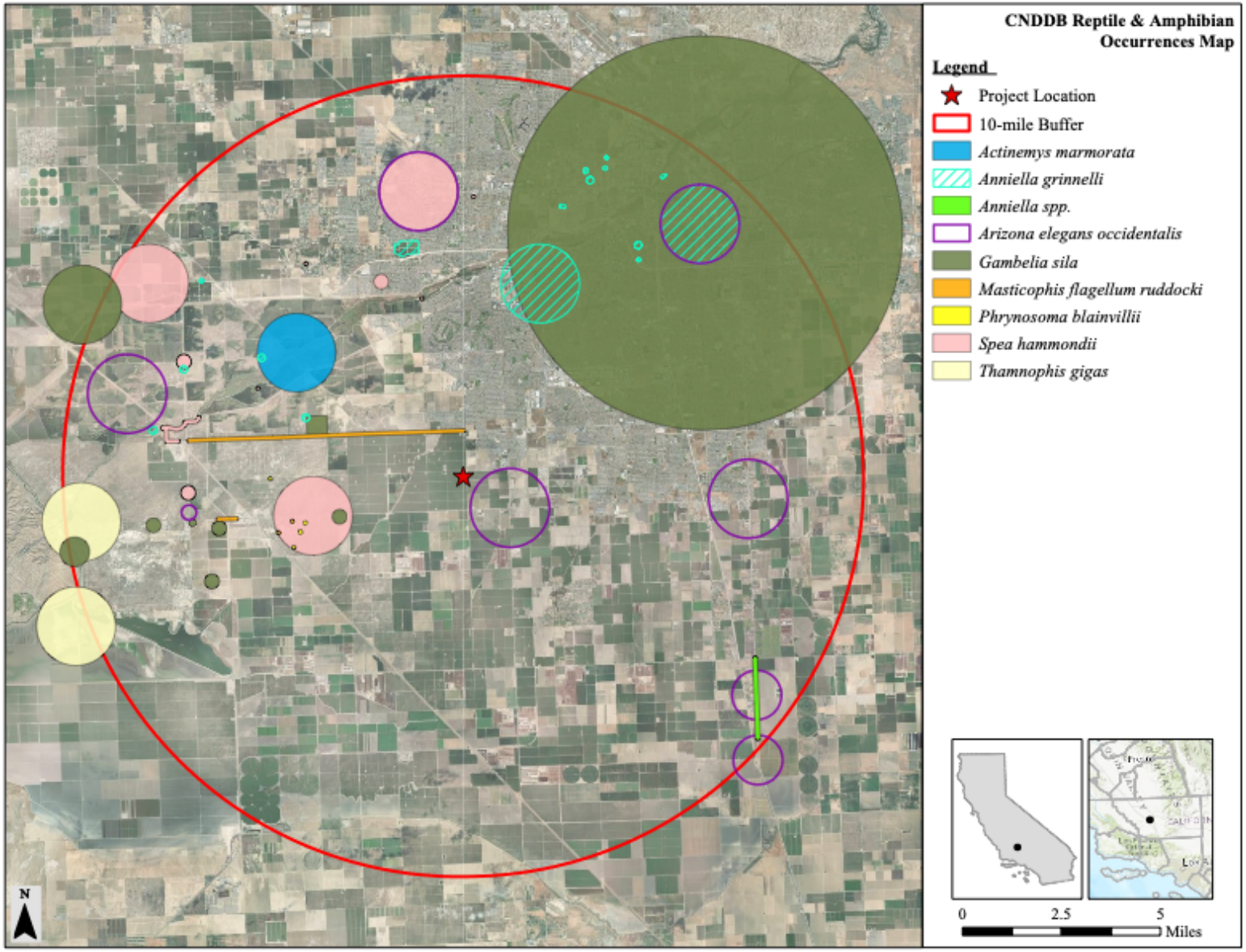


Figure B-3. CNDDB special-status amphibian and reptile species occurrences within a 10-mile radius of the project (CDFW 2025).

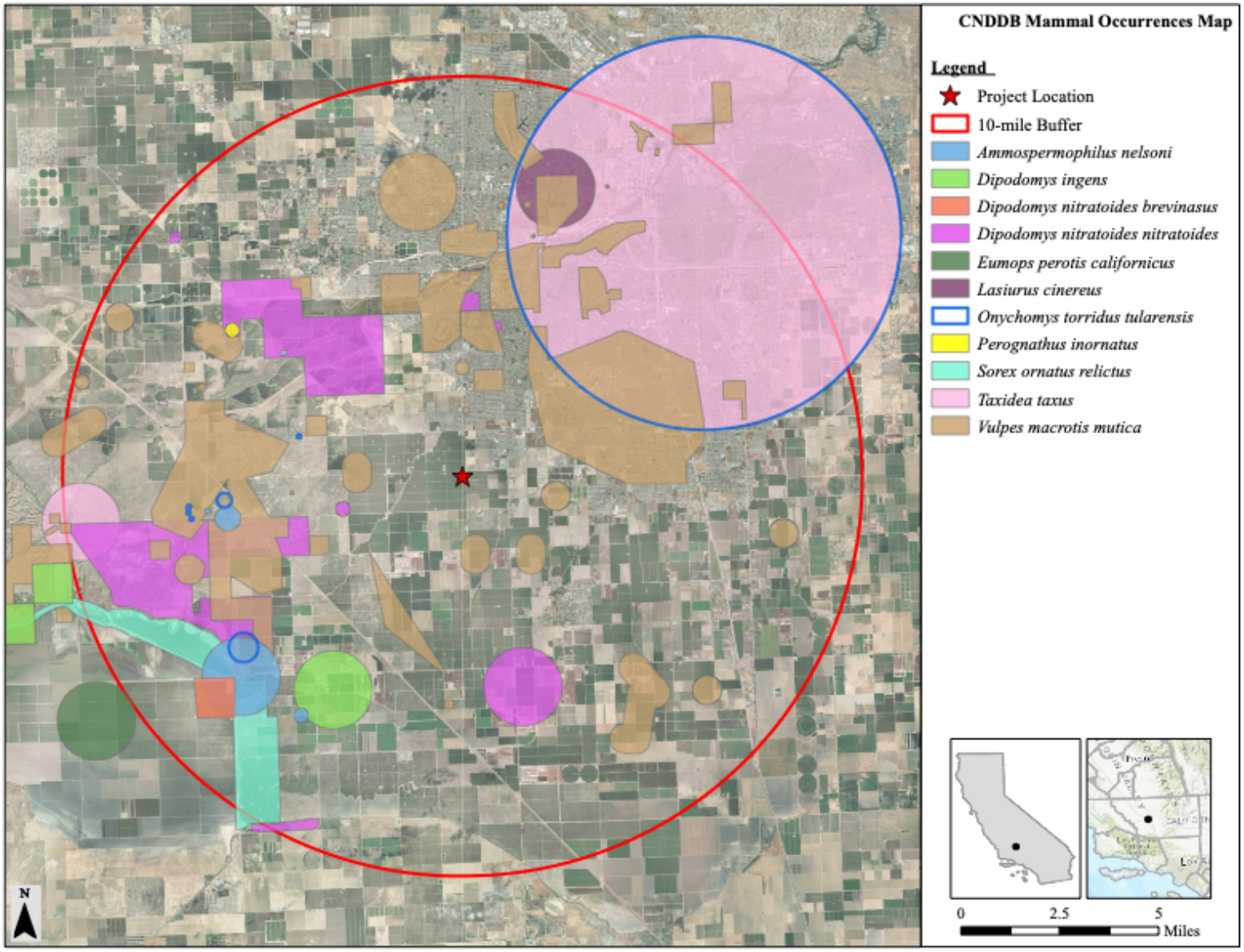


Figure B-4. CNDDB special-status mammal species occurrences within a 10-mile radius of the project (CDFW 2025).

APPENDIX C

PLANTS AND ANIMALS OBSERVED ON THE PROJECT

FIELD STUDY CONDUCTED
January 27, 2025

Table C-1. Vascular plant species observed during the field study conducted on the project site.

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Arecaceae	
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm
Asparagaceae	
Asparagus densiflora	Foxtail asparagus
Chlorophytum comosum	Spider plant
Asphodelaceae	
Aloe vera	Aloe vera
Asteraceae	
Euryops pectinatus	Grey-leaved euryops
Helianthus annuus	Common sunflower
Heterotheca grandifolia	Telegraph weed
Sonchus oleraceus	Common sow-thistle
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion
Brassicaceae	
Brassica nigra	Black mustard
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's purse
Sisymbrium irio	London rocket
Carophyllaceae	
Stellaria media	Common chickweed
Chenopodiaceae	
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle
Didiereaceae	
Portulacaria afra	Elephant bush
Didaceae	
Cycas revoluta	Sago palm
Ericaceae	
Rhododendron sp.	Rhododendron
Euphorbiaceae	
Euphorbia cyparissias	Cypress spurge
Fabaceae	

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud
Trifolium sp.	Clover
Geraniaceae	
Erodium cicutarium	Redstem filaree
Erodium moschatum	Whitestem filaree
Geranium sp.	Geranium
Lauraceae	
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor tree
Malvaceae	
Malva parviflora	Cheeseweed
Nephrolepidaceae	
Nephrolepis cordifolia	Fishbone fern
Plantaginaceae	
Antirrhinum majus	Snapdragon
Poaceae	
Cynodon dactylon	Bermudagrass
Festuca myuros	Rattail sixweeks grass
Triticum aestivum	Wheat
Rosaceae	
Prunus dulcis	Almond
Rosa chinensis	China rose
Rutaceae	
Citrus sinensis	Sweet orange
Solanaceae	
Solanum elaeagnifolium	Silverleaf nightshade
Strelitziaceae	
Strelitzia Nicolai	Giant white bird of paradise

Table C-2. Vertebrate animal species observed during the field study conducted on the project site.

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Birds	
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture
Corvus corax	Common raven
Falco sparverius	American kestrel
Passer domesticus	House sparrow
Sayornis nigricans	Black phoebe
Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Zonotrichia leucophrys	White-crowned sparrow
Mammals	
Thomomys bottae	Botta's pocket gopher (sign observed)