Special-Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

APPENDIX B

Appendix B

Table 1 Special-Status Plant Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status (Federal/State/ CNPS)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Alkali milk-vetch *(Astragalus tener* var. *tener)*	--/--/1B.2	Alkaline sites in playas, valley and foothill grassland (on adobe clay), and vernal pools; elevation 1-60m. Blooming Period: March - June	Unlikely. No alkaline sites or vernal pools. Outside of elevation range.
California alkali grass *(Puccinellia simplex)*	--/--/1B.2	Meadows and seeps, chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, vernal pools. Alkaline, vernally mesic. Sinks, flats, and lake margins; elevation 1-915m. Blooming Period: March - May	Unlikely. No vernally mesic sinks, flats, or lake margins present.
Congdon's tarplant *(Centromadia parryi* spp. *congdonii)*	--/--/1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland (alkaline); elevation 1-230m. Known to occur on various substrates, and in disturbed and ruderal (weedy) areas. Blooming Period: June - November	Unlikely. Suitable habitat present. However, not observed during site visit.
Eastwood's goldenbush *(Ericameria fasciculata)*	--/--/1B.1	Closed cone coniferous forest, chaparral (maritime), coastal dunes, and coastal scrub/sand; elevation 30 - 275 meters. Blooming Period: July - October	Unlikely. No suitable closed cone forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, or coastal scrub present onsite.
Fragrant fritillary *(Fritillaria liliacea)*	--/--/1B.2	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and coastal prairie. Often on serpentine; various soils reported though usually clay in grassland; elevation 3-410m. Blooming Period: February - April	Unlikely. Marginal grassland with clay substrate within project site. Closest occurrences approximately 10 to 15 miles west from project site. Not observed during focused plant surveys.
Gabilan Mountains manzanita *(Arctostaphylos gabrielensis)*	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, granitic substrates; elevation 300-700m. Blooming Period: March	Unlikely. No suitable chaparral or cismontane woodland habitats present. No granitic substrates.

Species	Status (Federal/State/ CNPS)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Hairless popcorn flower *(Plagiobothrys glaber)*	--/--/1A	Meadows and seeps (alkaline), marshes and swamps (coastal salt); elevation 15-180m. Blooming Period: March - May	Unlikely. No alkaline meadows or seeps present.
Hall's bush-mallow *(Malacothamnus hallii)*	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral, some populations on serpentine; elevation 10-550m. Blooming Period: May - September	Unlikely. No suitable chapparal habitat or serpentine substrates.
Hall's tarplant *(Deinandra halliana)*	--/--/1B.1	Cismontane woodland, chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Variety of substrates, including clay, sand, and alkaline soils; elevation 300-950m. Blooming Period: April - May	Unlikely. Although grassland habitat is present onsite, elevation reaches 160 m at the highest point. Halls found above 300 m.
Hoover's button-celery *(Eryngium aristulatum* var. *hooveri)*	--/--/1B.1	Vernal pools. Alkaline depressions, roadside ditches, and other wet places near the coast; elevation 5-45m. Blooming Period: July	Unlikely. No suitable vernal pools, alkaline depressions, roadside ditches, or other wet places near coast. Outside of elevation range.
Indian Valley bush-mallow *(Malacothamnus aboriginum)*	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral and cismontane woodland; rocky, often burned areas. Prefers granitic outcrops and sandy bare soil; elevation 150-1700m. Blooming Period: April - October	Unlikely. No suitable chaparral, cismontane woodland habitats. Not rocky, granitic outcrops, or sandy bare soil.
Loma Prieta hoita *(Hoita strobilina)*	--/--/1B.1	Wet areas on serpentine substrate in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and riparian woodland; elevation 30-860m. Blooming Period: May - October	Unlikely. No wet areas on serpentine substrate in chaparral, cismontane woodland, or riparian woodland.
Monterey spineflower *(Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens)*	FT/--/1B.2	Sandy openings in maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland; elevation 3-450m. Blooming Period: April - June	Unlikely. No sandy openings observed.
Most beautiful jewel-flower *(Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus)*	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, and cismontane woodland; serpentine outcrops, on ridges and slopes; elevation 120-730m. Blooming Period: April - June	Unlikely. No suitable serpentine outcrops on ridges or slopes.
Pajaro manzanita *(Arctostaphylos pajaroensis)*	--/--/1B.1	Sandy soils in chaparral habitat; evergreen; elevation 30-760m. Blooming Period: December - March	Unlikely. No suitable sandy soils in chaparral or evergreen habitats.
Pink creamsacs *(Castilleja rubicundula* ssp. *rubicundula)*	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland. Openings in chaparral or grasslands on serpentine soils; elevation 20-900m. Blooming Period: April - June	Unlikely. No serpentine soils.
Pinnacles buckwheat *(Eriogonum nortonii)*	--/--/1B.3	Sandy sites in chaparral and valley and foothill grassland, often on recent burns; elevation 300-975m. Blooming Period: May - June	Unlikely. Outside of elevation range. No sandy sites present.

Species	Status (Federal/State/ CNPS)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Prostrate vernal pool navarretia *(Navarretia prostrata)*	--/--/1B.1	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Alkaline soils in grassland, or in vernal pools; elevation 15-700m. Blooming Period: April - July	Unlikely. No vernal pools within project site.
Saline clover *(Trifolium hydrophilum)*	--/--/1B.2	Marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Prefers wet, alkaline sites; elevation 0-300m. Blooming Period: April - June	Unlikely. No wet alkaline sites within onsite grassland habitat.
San Francisco popcornflower *(Plagiobothrys diffusus)*	--/SE/1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, and coastal prairie. Historically from grassy slopes with marine influence; elevation 60-485m. Blooming Period: March - June	Unlikely. Marginal habitat within grassland habitats. Closest observation 9 miles west. Not observed during focused plant surveys.
San Joaquin spearscale *(Atriplex joaquinana)*	--/--/1B.2	Alkaline sites in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grassland; elevation 1-320m. Blooming Period: April - October	Unlikely. No alkaline sites in grassland habitat.
Western Heermann's buckwheat *(Eriogonum heermannii* var. *occidentale)*	--/--/1B.2	Openings in cismontane woodland, often on serpentine alluvium or on roadsides; rarely on clay or shale slopes; elevation 410-805m. Blooming Period: July - October	Unlikely. No openings in cismontane woodlands. No serpentine alluvium on project site.

SOURCE: CDFW 2025, CNPS 2025, USFWS 2025
NOTE: Status Codes:
Federal (USFWS)
FE: Listed as Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FT: Listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FC: A Candidate for listing as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FD: Delisted under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

State (CDFW)
SE: Listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
ST: Listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

CNPS Rare Plant Ranks and Threat Code Extensions
1B: Plants that are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
2B: Plants that are considered Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
.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).

Potential to Occur
Present: Observed during field surveys, known occurrence of species within the site
High: Known occurrence of species in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other records; presence of suitable habitat conditions
Moderate: Known occurrence of species in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other records; presence of marginal habitat conditions
Low: Species known to occur in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other records; presence of low quality habitat conditions
Unlikely: Species not known to occur in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other documentation; no suitable habitat is present
Not Present: Species not observed during surveys

Table 2 Special-Status Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Species	Status (Federal/State/)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
American badger *(Taxidea taxus)*	--/SSC	Most abundant in drier, open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats. Need sufficient food and open, uncultivated ground with friable soils to dig burrows. Prey on burrowing rodents.	Moderate. Suitable open stage grassland with sufficient food, and burrowing rodents.
Bank swallow *(Riparia riparia)*	--/ST	Highly colonial species that nests in alluvial soils along rivers, streams, lakes, and ocean coasts. Nesting colonies only occur in vertical banks or bluffs of friable soils at least one meter tall, suitable for burrowing with some predator deterrence values. Breeding colony present in Salinas River.	Unlikely. No suitable alluvial soils along rivers, streams, lakes, or oceans within the project site.
Burrowing owl *(Athene cunicularia)*	--/SSC, SC	Open, dry, annual or perennial grasslands, desert, or scrubland, with available small mammal burrows.	Present. Observed on project site.
California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)	FE/SE &FP	Requires vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest.	Unlikely. Although there is a low potential for flyover due proximity to nesting habitat at Pinnacles National Park, there is no suitable deep canyons for nesting on project site.
California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)*	FT/SSC	Rivers, creeks, and stock ponds with pools and overhanging vegetation. Requires dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation, and prefers short riffles and pools with slow-moving, well-oxygenated water. Needs upland habitat to aestivate (remain dormant during dry months) in small mammal burrows, cracks in the soil, or moist leaf litter.	Low. Suitable upland habitat onsite. Occurrences within one mile from project site. No suitable breeding ponds within project site.
California tiger salamander *(Ambystoma californiense)*	FT/ST	Grasslands and oak woodlands near seasonal pools and stock ponds in central and coastal California. Needs upland habitat to aestivate (remain dormant during dry months) in small mammal burrows, cracks in the soil, or moist leaf litter. Requires seasonal water sources that persist into late March for breeding habitat.	Moderate. Suitable upland habitat onsite. Occurrences present within one mile from project site.
Coast Range newt *(Taricha torosa)*	--/SSC	Coastal drainages; lives in terrestrial habitats and can migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams.	Unlikely. Dry open site.
Crotch's bumble bee *(Bombus crotchii)*	--/SCE	Open grassland and scrub habitats. Require flowering plants and suitable nesting sites. Documented food plants include *Asclepias* sp., *Chaenactis* sp., *Lupinus* sp., *Medicago* sp., *Phacelia* sp., and *Salvia* sp.	Moderate. Suitable grassland habitat. Few flowering shrubs. Possible presence of annuals in spring and summer provide foraging habitat.

Species	Status (Federal/State/)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Foothill yellow-legged frog *(Rana boylii)*	FE/SE	Partly shaded, shallow streams and riffles with rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Requires at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying and 15 weeks of available water to attain metamorphosis.	Unlikely. No suitable shallow open streams with rocky substrate.
Least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus)*	FE/SE	Summer resident of southern and central California in riparian habitats below 2,000 feet in elevation. Often nests in large shrubs, along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways.	Unlikely. No suitable riparian habitat present within project area.
Monarch butterfly *(Danaus plexippus)*	FC/--	Winter roost sites. Wind protected tree groves (Eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby.	Low. Small milkweed population observed onsite which may host monarch larvae.
Monterey hitch *(Lavinia exilicauda harengus)*	--/SSC	Inhabits slow warm water, including lakes and quiet stretches of rivers. Sometimes found in cool and clear low-gradient streams, hiding among aquatic vegetation in sandy runs or pools.	Unlikely. No suitable aquatic habitat present.
Northern California legless lizard *(Anniella pulchra)*	--/SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation, moist soils. Anniella pulchra is traditionally split into two subspecies: *A. pulchra pulchra* (silvery legless lizard) and *A. pulchra nigra* (black legless lizard), but these subspecies are typically no longer recognized.	Unlikely. No sandy moist soils. Soils include well drained clay soils with high vegetation coverage. Open, dry site.
Northwestern pond turtle *(Actinemys marmorata)*	FCT/SSC	Associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitats. Requires basking sites. Nest sites may be found up to 0.5 km from water.	Unlikely. No suitable permanent water within or adjacent to project site.
Pallid bat *(Antrozous pallidus)*	--/SSC	Deserts, grasslands, scrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures.	Low potential. Potential habitat in abandoned bunkers and buildings.
San Joaquin coachwhip *(Masticophis flagellum ruddocki)*	--/SSC	Open, dry habitats with little or no tree cover. Found in valley grassland and saltbush scrub in the San Joaquin Valley. Requires mammal burrows for refuge and oviposition sites.	Moderate. Suitable grassland habitat with burrows for refuge.
San Joaquin kit fox *(Vulpes macrotis mutica)*	FE/ST	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Needs loose-textured sandy soils for burrowing, and suitable prey base.	Moderate. Suitable grassland habitat. Suitable den-like structures observed.

Species	Status (Federal/State/)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Steelhead *(Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus)*	FT/--	Coastal stream with clean spawning gravel. Requires cool water and pools. Needs migratory access between natal stream and ocean.	Unlikely. No aquatic habitat present onsite.
Swainson's hawk *(Buteo swainsoni)*	--/ST	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas, such as grasslands or agricultural fields supporting rodent populations.	Unlikely. Suitable foraging present, but this species is uncommon in the area with first nests in hills east of Hollister in 2019.
Tricolored blackbird *(Agelaius tricolor)*	--/SE	Areas adjacent to open water with protected nesting substrate, which typically consists of dense, emergent freshwater marsh vegetation.	Unlikely. No suitable open water with nesting substrate present.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *(Branchinecta lynchi)*	FT/--	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast Mtns., and South Coast Mtns. in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabits small, clear-water sandstone depression pools and grass swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	Unlikely. All potential pool habitats are artificial. No small clearwater sandstone depressions, natural earth sumps, or basalt flow depressions. One potential artificial stormwater pond outside of the project area.
Western mastiff bat *(Eumops perotis californicus)*	--/SSC	Many open, semi-arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	Low. Potential habitat in building, and abandoned bunkers.
Western red bat *(Lasiurus blossevillii)*	--/SSC	Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 feet above the ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging.	Unlikely. Red bat is strongly associated with riparian habitats, particularly in mature stands of cottonwoods and sycamores, as well as in orchards.
Western spadefoot *(Spea hammondii)*	FPT/SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands, breeds in winter and spring (January - May) in quiet streams and temporary pools.	Moderate. Suitable aestivation habitat present throughout project site.
White-tailed kite *(Elanus leucurus)*	--/SFP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks, and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodlands. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	Moderate. Potential nesting habitat in adjacent oak woodland, and onsite oak trees. WTK observed hunting on project site.
Yellow rail *(Corturnicops noveboracensis)*	--/SSC	Summer resident in eastern Sierra Nevadas, prefers freshwater marshlands.	Unlikely. No freshwater marshland.

Species	Status (Federal/State/)	Suitable Habitat Description	Potential to Occur on the Project Site
Yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)*	FT/SE	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	Unlikely. No riparian forest along river system within project site.
Yellow-breasted chat *(Icteria virens)*	--/SSC	Summer resident. Inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian vegetation consisting of willow, blackberry, and wild grape. Forages and nests within 10 feet off the ground.	Unlikely. No riparian thickets near watercourses within project area.

SOURCE: CDFW 2025, USFWS 2025
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FT: Listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FC: A Candidate for listing as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
FSC: Species of Special Concern.
FD: Delisted under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

State (CDFW)
SE: Listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
ST: Listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.
SR: Listed as Rare under the California Endangered Species Act.
SC: A Candidate for listing as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
SSC: Species of Special Concern.
SFP: Fully Protected species under the California Fish and Game Code.
SD: Delisted under the California Endangered Species Act.

Potential to Occur
Present: Observed during field surveys, known occurrence of species within the site
High: Known occurrence of species in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other records; presence of suitable habitat conditions
Moderate: Known occurrence of species in the vicinity from the CNDDB or other records; presence of marginal habitat conditions
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