**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Wildfire Adaptation Fuel Reduction Vegetation and Tree Removal Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 10-AMA-88 **PM/PM:** 38.1-39.8 & 41.9-45.5

**EA:** N/A **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description:**

In January 2021, the Governor's Office released California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan and state highways were identified as "a critical part of the solution" with direction to create fire-safe roadways. The proposed action would modify vegetation along State Route (SR) 88 in Amador County from post miles 38.1-39.8 & 41.9-45.5 to create roadside fuel breaks. Treatments on Eldorado National Forest land would occur within Caltrans' easement areas. Vegetation management activities would include: Removing and disposing off-site of invasive species (trees, shrubs, chaparral) and dead, dying or diseased vegetation; Removing conifers less than 10 inches DBH and hardwoods less than 8 inches DBH; Treating all cut material through chipping, mastication, or lopping; Limited treated material (masticated, chipped, or scattered) to a maximum debris depth of 4 inches to reduce erosion and seed germination with excess material removed from site; and pruning in accordance with ANSI 300 standards.

**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

☐ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency

☐ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

☐ **Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☒ **Categorically Exempt. Class 4** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

☒ No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the SER Chapter 34 for exceptions.

☐ **Covered by the Common Sense Exemption**. This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

| Elizabeth Hummel | Elizabeth Hummel | 11.3.2026 |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Project Manager**

| Kristen Stubblefield | Kristen Stubblefield | 11.3.26 |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Caltrans NEPA Determination** (Check one)

☒ **Not Applicable**

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

☐ **23 USC 326:** Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- ☐ **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)**
- ☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)**
- ☐ **Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans**

☐ **23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|---|---|---|

**Project Manager/ DLA Engineer**

| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|---|---|---|

**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** N/A
**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** See continuation sheet.

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).

**Continuation sheet:**

Please see Contract 3 Environmental Commitments attached for a full list of avoidance and minimization measures.

# CONTRACT 3
# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

CULTURAL RESOURCES

14 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIPS

14-1 GENERAL

14-1.01 GENERAL

Section 14 includes specifications relating to environmental compliance and environmental resource management.

14-1.02 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA)

If an ESA is shown, the boundaries shown are approximate. The Department marks the exact boundaries on the ground.
Do not enter an ESA unless authorized.
If an ESA is breached, immediately:

1. Stop all work within 60 feet of the ESA boundary
2. Secure the area
3. Caltrans Inspector

If an ESA is damaged, the Department determines the necessary remediation and the party to perform the work. The Department deducts the cost for this work.

14-2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

14-2.01 GENERAL

Section 14-2 includes specifications relating to cultural resources.

14-2.02 DEFINITIONS

**archaeological resources/sites:** Remains of past human activity, including historic and prehistoric material such as tools and tool fragments, hearth and food remains, structural remains, and human remains.

SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

a. Sensitive Biological Resources include:
    i. Habitat that supports special-status plant and animal species, which includes:
        1. candidate, rare, threatened, endangered plants and wildlife; and
        2. federally listed species and their designated critical habitat.

b. General. During project planning and immediately prior to on the groundwork or progression of treatments, identify known sites of sensitive biological resources and either avoid or exclude them from the project area.
    i. Identify, flag and avoid sensitive biological resources from project activities. BMPs include 1) maintenance of habitat function and avoidance of special-status species. 2) Avoidance of habitat features within the project area, including the establishment of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) buffers around sensitive biological resources; 3) Conducting fuels reduction activities outside of critical seasons when a sensitive biological resource would be present; 4) Biological Monitoring while conducting project activities.

c. Botanical Resources. Avoid plant populations by establishing either a seasonal work limitation or ESA-buffers. If listed plant species are found during operations, place appropriate ESA buffers around the population to avoid impacts during treatment activities, and monitor.

d. Chaparral/Shrubland. Avoid project activities that could lead to type conversion where native chaparral and coastal sage scrub are present. Type conversion is defined as a change from a vegetation type dominated by native shrub species that are characteristic of chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation alliances to a vegetation type characterized predominantly by weedy herbaceous cover or annual grasslands.

e. Vernal Pools, Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Protection: ESA with 50' to 100' buffers, avoid project activities in these areas.

f. During Project Activities: Daily Clearance Inspection: Before the start of daily project activities, the project biologist shall walk and survey the work area to ensure no new sensitive or listed species or habitat are present. If additional resources are identified, ESA, and monitor during treatment activities.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF BMPs

## General

See Attachment A for a table of special-status wildlife species with potential to occur in the project area and habitat descriptions.

## Vernal Pools

The Daily Clearance Inspection will include identification of vernal pools in the project area.

## Botanical Resources

To avoid impacts on plants listed under CESA or the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or proposed for listing, apply the protections described under Botanical Resources to those species.

A search of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare plant inventory and California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for known rare plants surrounding all project areas has been conducted and pedestrian surveys for sensitive plants were conducted between May 1 and June 1, 2025. *Project areas were examined for presence of sensitive plant species, and no state or federally listed plant species were detected in the project area.*

One CRPR rank 1B.2 sensitive plant species was detected during pedestrian surveys. Nine individual occurrences of Pleasant Valley mariposa-lily (*Calachortus clavatus* var. *avius*) were documented. Mariposa clarkia (*Clarkia biloba* ssp. *australis*) was documented in the portions of the project area that occur in Amador County. Buffers will be established around all sensitive plant occurrences, and plant buffers will be fully avoided by treatment activities.

## Wildlife

A search of the CNDDB has been conducted for known occurrences of sensitive wildlife species in the USGS quadrant area surrounding all project areas. Vegetation data was examined for assessment of habitat suitability. Reconnaissance surveys for sensitive wildlife habitat have been conducted at all treatment areas.

The below list of project-specific measures includes general protections for sensitive wildlife groups (e.g., nesting birds, bats) as well as species-specific measures for species that are listed or candidates for listing under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), those listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and those that are candidates or proposed for listing under ESA (Attachment A). Positive observations of ESA-listed species would be reported to USFWS by the Caltrans-approved biologist, to the extent feasible.

## Invertebrates

### Pollinator Protection

Many special-status invertebrates are pollinators with similar habitat requirements. The following BMPs will be implemented to protect special-status pollinator species:

- Herbicide applications will not target native flowering plants while they are blooming. Herbicide applications will be conducted with ground-level applications only (i.e., paint-on stems, backpack hand-applicator, hypo-hatchet tree injection, or hand placement of pellets). No aerial spray of herbicides will occur.
- Biomass disposal (e.g., chip or log placement) will be designed to avoid flowering plants when feasible.
- If treatment is proposed in areas containing floral resources for special-status pollinators (e.g., wet meadow, forest meadow, riparian, or grassland, containing flowering plants), treatments will be conducted in a patchy pattern to the extent feasible in occupied or suitable habitat, such that the entirety of the habitat is not burned or removed and untreated portions of occupied or suitable habitat are retained (e.g., fire breaks will be aligned to allow for areas of unburned floral resources for pollinators within the treatment area). The objective of this measure is to provide refuge for special-status bumble bees and butterflies during treatment activities and temporary retention of suitable floral resources proximate to the treatment area.

## Reptiles and Amphibians

### Reptile and Amphibian Protection

The following BMPs will be implemented to protect special-status reptile and amphibian species:

- Check Equipment: Operators and surveyors will check under or next to stationary vehicles prior to operating vehicles for the presence of special-status reptiles and amphibians.
- Avoidance of burrows: ESA, avoid, monitor.
- Wood Chip Guidelines: Chips will not be spread on burrows, rock outcrops, or other features that may be used as special-status reptile or amphibian refugia. Chips will be spread on the ground to the specified depth limit and will not be spread on vegetation. No chips will be spread in native perennial grassland habitat or in habitat identified as sensitive.

[1] USFWS proposed the 4(d) rule for northwestern pond turtle, which would provide certain exceptions to take prohibitions in the ESA for projects that have beneficial or negligible impacts to the northwestern pond turtle, including wildfire suppression and management projects.

## Birds

Nesting Bird Protection

Nesting birds will be protected with implementation of the Daily Clearance Inspection and the following BMPs:

- Treatment activities will occur outside of the active nesting season of bird species, including raptors, that could be present within or adjacent to the treatment site. The nesting season is generally February 1 through August 31, or as determined by a Caltrans biologist based on site specific conditions. If habitat is present for special-status nesting birds with longer nesting periods, the limited operating period will be altered as described below:
  - White-tailed kite: January 1 through August 31
- If active nesting season avoidance is not feasible, a Caltrans-approved biologist will conduct a survey for nesting birds, including raptors during daily clearance inspections, or as a separate survey no more than 14 days prior to treatment activities. Existing records (e.g., CNDDB, eBird database, State Wildlife Action Plan) may be reviewed in advance of the survey to identify the common nesting birds, including raptors, that are known to occur in the vicinity of the treatment site. The survey will occur in a single survey period of sufficient duration to reasonably detect nesting birds and conducted during the active time of day for target species, typically close to dawn and/or dusk (of the preceding day).
- If an active nest is observed (i.e., presence of eggs and/or chicks) or determined to likely be present based on nesting bird behavior, Caltrans will implement a strategy to avoid disturbance of active nests, which may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following measures:
  - Establish Buffer. A temporary, species-appropriate buffer will be established around the nest sufficient to reasonably expect that breeding will not be disrupted. Treatment activities will not be implemented inside of the buffer until the chicks have fledged from the nest and are no longer reliant on the nest site. The buffer location will be determined by a Caltrans-approved biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer location will include presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and expected treatment activities. Industry standard buffer distances are included here. These distances may be adjusted as needed by the Caltrans-approved biologist.
    - California spotted owl: 0.25 miles
    - Great gray owl: 1,320 feet
    - Tricolored blackbird: 300 feet
  - Modify Treatment. Caltrans will modify the treatment in the vicinity of an active nest to avoid disturbance of active nests (e.g., by implementing manual treatment methods, rather than mechanical treatment methods) if feasible. Treatment modifications will be determined by Caltrans & USFS/ENT in coordination with a Caltrans-approved biologist.
- The following avoidance strategies may also be considered together with or in lieu of the above actions to avoid disturbance to raptor nests:
  - Monitor Active Raptor Nest During Treatment. A Caltrans-approved biologist will monitor an active raptor nest during treatment activities to identify signs of agitation, nest defense, or other behaviors that signal disturbance of the active nest is likely (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest). If breeding raptors are showing signs of nest disturbance, one of the other avoidance strategies (establish buffer, modify treatment) will be implemented or a pause in the treatment activity will occur until the disturbance behavior ceases.
  - Retention of Raptor Nest Trees. Trees with visible raptor nests, whether occupied or not, will be retained.

[2] USFWS proposed the 4(d) rule for California spotted owl, which would provide certain exceptions to take prohibitions under ESA for projects that have beneficial or negligible impacts to California spotted owl, including forest or fuels management to reduce the risk or severity of wildfire.

## Wildlife Nursery and Rookery Sites

Wildlife nurseries and rookeries include bird nest rookeries, fish spawning areas, deer fawning areas, and maternal bat dens for common wildlife species. Wildlife nursery sites are considered sensitive by the EPP. Nursery habitat will be assessed and identified during the Daily Clearance Inspection and following BMPs:

- Retain Known Nursery Sites. A Caltrans-approved biologist will identify the important habitat features of the wildlife nursery and, prior to treatment activities, will mark these features for avoidance and retention during treatment. If tree removal is conducted within forested areas during the maternity season for bats (April 1 to August 31), a bat habitat assessment survey will be performed by a Caltrans-approved biologist prior to tree removal.
- Establish Avoidance Buffers. Caltrans will establish a no-disturbance buffer around the nursery site if activities are required while the nursery site is active/occupied. The appropriate size and shape of the buffer will be determined by the Caltrans-approved biologist, based on potential effects of project-related habitat disturbance, noise, visual disturbance, and other factors. No treatment activity will commence within the buffer area until the Caltrans-approved biologist confirms that the nursery site is no longer active/occupied, if feasible. If treatment activities cause agitated behavior of the individual(s), the buffer distance will be increased or treatment activities modified until the agitated behavior stops.

### CHEMICAL TREATMENT

g. Discharge. Herbicides shall not be applied in a manner, or at rates that will cause or threaten to cause a discharge of waste to waters of the state at levels that cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives.

h. Application. Herbicide applications shall comply with all laws and regulations that are not suspended. If herbicide treatments are needed, consultation with a licensed Pest Control Advisor shall occur.

i. Weather. Herbicide application shall not occur in the following conditions: in winds that exceed seven miles per hour, during a Precipitation Event or in violation of any label directions related to precipitation.

j. Streams and other water features: buffers between 50' to 100' shall be applied to avoid contamination.

### PROJECT-SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION OF BMPs

- Spill Prevention and Response Plan: The project proponent or licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA) will prepare a Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) prior to beginning any herbicide treatment activities to provide protection to onsite workers, the public, and the environment from accidental leaks or spills of herbicides, adjuvants, or other potential contaminants. The SPRP will include (but not be limited to):
  - a map that delineates staging areas, and storage, loading, and mixing areas for herbicides;
  - a list of items required in an onsite spill kit that will be maintained throughout the life of the activity;
  - procedures for the proper storage, use, and disposal of any herbicides, adjuvants, or other chemicals used in vegetation treatment.
- Comply with Herbicide Application Regulations: The project proponent will coordinate pesticide use with the applicable County Agricultural Commissioner(s), and all required licenses and permits will be obtained prior to herbicide application. Caltrans will prepare all herbicide applications to do the following:
  - Be implemented consistent with recommendations prepared annually by a licensed PCA.
  - Comply with all appropriate laws and regulations pertaining to the use of pesticides and safety standards for employees and the public, as governed by the EPA, DPR, and applicable local jurisdictions.
  - Adhere to label directions for application rates and methods, storage, transportation, mixing, container disposal, and weather limitations to application such as wind speed, humidity, temperature, and precipitation.
  - Be applied by an applicator appropriately licensed by the State.

- Triple Rinse Herbicide Containers: The project proponent will triple rinse all herbicide and adjuvant containers with clean water at an approved site and dispose of rinsate by placing it in the batch tank for application per 3 CCR Section 6684. The project proponent will puncture used containers on the top and bottom to render them unusable, unless said containers are part of a manufacturer's container recycling program, in which case the manufacturer's instructions will be followed. Disposal of non-recyclable containers will be at legal dumpsites. Equipment will not be cleaned, and personnel will not be washed in a manner that would allow contaminated water to directly enter any body of water within the treatment area or adjacent watersheds. Disposal of all herbicides will follow label requirements and waste disposal regulations.
- Minimize Herbicide Drift to Public Areas: The project proponent will employ the following herbicide application parameters during herbicide application to minimize drift into public areas:
  - application will cease when weather parameters exceed label specifications or when sustained winds at the site of application exceeds 7 miles per hour (whichever is more conservative).
  - spray nozzles will be configured to produce the largest appropriate droplet size to minimize drift.
  - low nozzle pressures (30-70 pounds per square inch) will be utilized to minimize drift; and
  - spray nozzles will be kept within 24 inches of vegetation during spraying.
- Notification of Herbicide Use in the Vicinity of Public Areas: For herbicide applications occurring within or adjacent to public recreation areas, residential areas, schools, or any other public areas within 500 feet, the project proponent will post signs at each end of herbicide treatment areas and any intersecting trails notifying the public of the use of herbicides. The signs will include the signal word (i.e., Danger, Warning or Caution), product name, and manufacturer; active ingredient; EPA registration number; target pest; treatment location; date and time of application; restricted entry interval, if applicable per the label requirements; date which notification sign may be removed; and a contact person with a telephone number. Signs will be posted prior to the start of treatment and notification will remain in place for at least 72 hours after treatment ceases.

## REFERENCES

USFWS. *See* US Fish and Wildlife Service.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2023. "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northwestern Pond Turtle and Southwestern Pond Turtle." Proposed Rule. Federal Register 88: 68370 – 68399.

# Attachment A

## Special-Status Wildlife Species Evaluated for Caltrans District 10

**Special-Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Study Area and Their Potential for Occurrence in the Study Area**

| Species | Listing Status[1] | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fish | | | |
| *Mylopharodon conocephalus* hardhead | US: USFS<br>CA: SSC | Low to mid-elevation streams in the Sacramento-San Joaquin drainage. Also present in the Russian River. Clear, deep pools with sand-gravel-boulder bottoms and slow water velocity. Not found where exotic centrarchids predominate. | Route 88 – No; not in range. |
| Invertebrates | | | |
| *Bombus crotchii* Crotch bumble bee | US:<br>CA: C | Nearly endemic to California; occurs in grassland and shrublands in southern and central California; flight period for queens is from late February to late October; flight period for workers and males is from Late March through September; nests underground; likely overwinters in soft soil or under leaf litter; generalist forager. | Route 88 – Possible. |
| *Bombus occidentalis* Western bumble bee | US:<br>CA: C | Once common throughout much of its range, in California, this species is currently largely restricted to high elevation sites in the Sierra Nevada and the northern California coast. Habitat includes open grassy areas, chaparral, scrub, and meadows. Requires suitable nesting sites for the colonies, availability of nectar and pollen from floral resources throughout the duration of the colony period (spring, summer, and fall), and suitable overwintering sites for the queens. | Route 88 – Possible. |
| *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus* valley elderberry longhorn beetle | US: T<br>CA: — | Requires elderberry shrubs for reproduction and survival, with stems greater than 1 inch; occurs only in the Central Valley north of the San Joaquin River; occurs below 500 feet elevation; eggs laid on elderberry shrubs; larvae burrow into stems for food and metamorphosis; adults emerge from the stem and spend the remainder of their lives on the same shrub or on the ground underneath. | Route 88 – No; no elderberry encountered. |
| Amphibians | | | |
| *Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum* southern long-toed salamander | US:<br>CA: SSC | Sierra Nevada from Tuolumne County near Stanislaus River northward and east of the Cascades in Modoc and Lassen Counties; found in ponderosa pine, montane hardwood-conifer, mixed conifer, montane riparian, red fir, and wet meadows; elevational range from near sea level to 9,180 feet; feeds on invertebrates; subterranean most of the year occupying small mammal burrows, rock fissures and human structures; nocturnally active preceding and following breeding; breeds in temporary ponds formed from winter and spring rains/snowmelt. | Route 88 – Yes; numerous records, mostly at higher elevations. |

| Species | Listing Status[1] | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|
| California tiger salamander - central California DPS *Ambystoma californiense* pop. 1 | US: T<br>CA: T | Lives in vacant or mammal-occupied burrows throughout most of the year; in grassland, savanna, or open woodland habitats. Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding. | Route 88 – Yes; lower elevation portions of this project area are within range for this species. |
| *Hydromantes brunus* limestone salamander | US: USFS<br>CA: T, FP | Highly restricted range; found in mixed chaparral habitats when moisture is available, primarily along the Merced River and its tributaries in Mariposa County; elevational range from 80 to 2,624 feet; sometimes found on limestone outcrops and caverns; California buckeye (Aesculus californica) maybe an indicator for ideal habitat; seeks cover under logs and rocks; little known about feeding habits and reproduction; nocturnally active at surface during rain in fall, winter, and spring; mostly subterranean during dry periods. | Route 88 – No; highly restricted range far from route. |
| *Rana boylii* pop. 5 Foothill yellow-legged frog - south Sierra DPS | US: E, USFS<br>CA: E | Found in aquatic habitats with flowing water and partially shaded by riparian habitat. Streams are shallow and have riffles from rocky substrate. Lays eggs on cobble-size rock. Water must be present for at least 15 weeks for metamorphosis. Rarely found away from permanent water; further distance from water recorded is 165 feet. | Route 88 – Yes; multiple recorded observations in vicinity. |
| *Rana draytonii* California red-legged frog | US: T<br>CA: SSC | Highly aquatic; found in quiet, permanent or nearly permanent pools of streams and marshes, occasionally ponds; prefers well vegetated shorelines; feeds on wide variety of animals; larvae or mostly herbivores; need permanent pools with emergent vegetation to attach egg masses; active all year. | Route 88 – Yes; documented in tributaries that cross route. |
| *Rana sierrae* Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog | US: E, USFS<br>CA: T | Aquatic, though always encountered within a few feet of water in streams, lakes and ponds with riparian habitat, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, and wet meadow habitats; favors terrestrial insects; requires shallow water with gravel or rocks for egg attachment; diurnal; hibernate in winter beneath ice-covered aquatic features; occurs in the Sierra Nevada from Fresno County north to Plumas County at elevations from 4,500 feet to over 11,90 feet. | Route 88 – Yes; documented at higher elevations. |
| Reptiles | | | |
| *Actinemys marmorata* northwestern pond turtle | US: PT, USFS<br>CA: SSC | Highly aquatic and diurnally active; found in ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches with vegetation and rocky/muddy bottoms; wide variety of habitats; needs basking areas near water (logs, rocks, vegetation mats, banks); may enter brackish water and even seawater; digs nest on land near water; range is from north of the San Francisco Bay area south, including the Central Valley. | Route 88 – Yes; recorded observations near Jackson and Pine Grove and in tributaries at higher elevations. |

| Species | Listing Status[1] | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Birds | | | |
| *Accipiter atricapillus* American goshawk | US: USFS<br>CA: SSC | Found in North Coast conifer forest, subalpine conifer forest, and upper montane conifer forest; usually nests on north slopes near water in red fir lodgepole pine, Jeffrey pine, and aspens; uses old nests and maintains alternate sites. | Route 88 – Yes, at highest elevations. |
| *Agelaius tricolor* tricolored blackbird | US:<br>CA: T, SSC | Colonial breeders prefer freshwater, emergent wetlands with tall, dense cattails or tules, but also thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose, and tall herbs; breeding colonies are minimum ~50 pairs; forages in pastures, grain fields, and similar habitats near breeding areas. | Route 88 – Not expected; occurs at lower elevations than the WABs. |
| *Aquila chrysaetos* Golden eagle | US:<br>CA: FP | Broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, coastal prairie, Great Basin grassland, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodlands, upper montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range; also, large trees in open areas. | Route 88 – Yes; in lower elevations, though unlikely to nest in the treatment area. |
| *Elanus leucurus* White-tailed kite | US:<br>CA: FP | Cismontane woodland, marsh and swamp, riparian woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and wetlands. Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching. | Route 88 – Yes; at lower elevations. |
| *Strix nebulosa* great gray owl | US: USFS<br>CA: E | Resident of mixed conifer or red fir forest habitat, in or on edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags in a forest with high canopy closure, which provides a cool sub-canopy microclimate. | Route 88 – Yes; primarily at higher elevations. |
| *Strix occidentalis occidentalis* California spotted owl | US: P<br>CA: SCC | Broadleaved upland forest, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest. Mixed conifer forest, often with an understory of black oaks and other deciduous hardwoods. Canopy closure greater than 40 percent. Most often found in deep-shaded canyons, on north-facing slopes, and within 0.18 miles of water. | Route 88 – Yes, limited potential; species documented in vicinity of upper elevation portions of SR 88. |

| Species | Listing Status[1] | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mammals | | | |
| *Antrozous pallidus* pallid bat | US: USFS<br>CA: SSC | Occurs in low elevations in deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests throughout California from sea level up through mixed conifer forests; most common in open, dry, habitats with rocky areas for roosting; roosts usually in groups of 20 or more; day roosts in caves, crevices, mines, and occasionally hollow trees and buildings; night roosts sometimes in more open areas; roost must protect against high temps; maternity colonies form in April; hibernates in winter; needs water; very sensitive to roost disturbance. | Route 88 – Yes; at lower elevations. |
| *Bassariscus astutus raptor* Northern California ringtail | US:<br>CA: FP | Dens most often in rock crevices, boulder piles, or talus, but also tree hollows, root cavities, and rural buildings. Rarely use same den for more than a few days. Females with litters change dens within 10 days of birth and almost daily after 20 days. | Route 88 – Yes; though unlikely to den in the treatment area. |
| *Corynorhinus townsendii* Townsend's big-eared bat | US: USFS<br>CA: SSC | Found throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Requires human-made structures for roosting. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites are limited. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance. | Route 88 – Yes, where human structures are found. Most structures within WABs are likely limited in suitability. |
| *Euderma maculatum* spotted bat | US:<br>CA: SSC | Found in various communities including desert-scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer forest, canyons, cliffs, riparian areas, fields, and open pasture at scattered localities in western North America from southern British Columbia to north-central Mexico. Roosts in cracks, crevices, and caves, usually on exposed cliff faces. Wanders widely and through varied habitats when foraging. Moth specialist. Feeds over water. Drinks water. | Route 88 – Yes; very few locations where exposed cliffs/slopes occur. |
| *Myotis thysanodes* fringed myotis | US: USFS<br>CA: — | Occurs throughout California except for Central Valley and deserts; occurs in a wide variety of habitats from sea level to 9,350 feet in elevations; optimal habitats are pinyon-juniper, valley foothill hardwood, and hardwood-conifer; feeds on invertebrates; roosts in caves, mines, buildings, and crevices; uses separate day and night roosts; maternity colonies up to 200 individuals; requires water; forages at open habitats, early successional stages, streams, lakes, and ponds; easily disturbed at roost sites. | Route 88 – Yes, where human structures are found. Most structures within WABs are likely limited in suitability. |
| *Myotis yumanensis* Yuma myotis | US:<br>CA: — | Roosts in crevices within bridges, buildings, culverts, cliff crevices, dams, caves, mines, and trees, typically near a perennial water source. Also documented roosting in swallow mud-nests. Forages primarily on aquatic emergent insects; example prey items include caddis flies, flies, midges, small moths, and small beetles (Bogan et al. 2005d). Nonmigratory; present and detected year-round in Southern California. | Route 88 – Yes, where human structures are found. Most structures within WABs are likely limited in suitability. |

| Species | Listing Status[1] | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Pekania pennanti* pop. 2<br>fisher - southern Sierra Nevada ESU | US: E, USFS,<br>CA: T | Found in the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and Klamath Mountains, and in some locations in the North Coast Range; prefers intermediate to large-tree stages of conifer forests and deciduous-riparian habitats; suitable habitat has greater than 50% canopy closure with snags and mature, hollow trees which fishers use for denning and shelter; active yearlong, mostly at night; one of few species that predates on porcupines. | Route 88 – Yes; at higher elevations where forest density provides habitat suitable for the species. Nearest records are more than 75 miles south. |
| *Vulpes vulpes necator* pop. 2<br>Sierra Nevada red fox - Sierra Nevada DPS | US: E, USFS<br>CA: T | Use multiple habitat types in the alpine and subalpine zones including high-elevation conifer dominated by whitebark pine, mountain hemlock and lodgepole pine, as well as meadows and fell-fields; prefers forests interspersed with meadows and alpine fell-fields; uses edges extensively; uses dens in rock outcrops, hollow logs and stumps, and burrows for reproduction; active year round; typically in areas of heavy snow cover above 3,900 feet; only 2 populations are known to exist: near Lassen Peak and near Sonora Pass. | Route 88 –No; higher elevation areas not located proximal to either of the 2 documented populations. |

Notes: US = United States (Federal), CA = California, DPS = Distinct Population Segment.

[1] Listing Status

C Candidate for listing
E Listed as Endangered
T Listed as Threatened
PT Proposed Threatened
FP Fully Protected
P Proposed
SSC California Species of Special Concern
USFS United States Forest Service Sensitive

Sources: CDFW 2025a; CDFW 2025b; CDFW 2025c; CNPS 2025; USFWS 2025; Zeiner et al. 1990.

Prepared by LSA, adapted by Ascent.

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