

Biological Report
for
River Oaks II, 2013 Revised Study Area

City of El Paso de Robles
San Luis Obispo County
California



Prepared for

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Synopsis

- This biological report examines a 130+ acre Study Area in the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California.
- A larger study area that included additional properties was previously examined in 2007 and a report was prepared. This report includes information from previous findings and includes information from site inspection in 2013 to update conditions and biological resources on the site.
- The applicant proposes a residential development north of the River Oaks I residential development.
- The Study Area consists of seven habitat types: riparian, annual grassland, blue oak woodland, wetland, agrestal (dryland grain crop), ruderal, and anthropogenic. Floristic surveys of the Study Area identified 188 species of plants. A complete list of landscape species is not included.
- Eight special status plants and nineteen special status animals have the potential to occur in or near the Study Area. Appendix B, Figure 4 shows the current GIS data from the California Natural Diversity Database for rare species occurrences near the site.
- Biological resources that could be impacted by a proposed residential development project in the Study Area include common habitat types, wetlands, oak trees, common plant and animal species, special status plant and animal species, and nesting birds. The applicant intends to avoid impacts to all oak trees in the Study Area. All impacts to biological resources can be mitigated to a less than significant level.
- Potential impacts to biological resources are outlined, and mitigation recommendations are provided.

1.0 Introduction

This biological report examines botanical, zoological, and aquatic resources associated with a 130± acre property (Study Area) in the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California. A biological assessment that included a larger project area was completed by Althouse and Meade, Inc. in August 1999, and revised in August 2001, and in June 2007. This updated Biological Report provides results of previous studies, and current information on existing conditions, current land use, and potential special status species within the 130± acre Study Area.

Results are reported for floristic and wildlife surveys of the Study Area conducted in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2007, and 2013. Also reported is a habitat inventory, and results of database and literature searches of special status species reports within five miles of the Study Area. Natural communities on the site are identified, special status species that could occur in the Study Area or be affected by the proposed project are discussed, and lists of plant and animal species that were identified or are expected in the Study Area are provided. This report provides information regarding biological resources on the site, and assesses potential impacts to biological resources that could occur from the proposed project. An evaluation of the effect of the proposed project on biological resources is included, and mitigation measures are provided.

1.1 Project Location and Description

The Study Area is located in the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California (Appendix B, Figure 1). River Oaks II is situated north of State Highway 46 East, and east of the Salinas River. Approximate coordinates for the center of the Study Area are N35.65412° / W120.678889°, in the Paso Robles United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute quadrangle (Appendix B, Figure 2). Elevation varies from approximately 665 to 830 feet above sea level.

The applicant proposes to design and build a planned residential community in the Study Area. River Oaks I is an existing planned community bordering the south side of the Study Area. The currently proposed project would expand on the existing infrastructure and design at River Oaks I. Concept Plan maps created for the project by RRM Design Group, included here in Appendix A, are designed to identify land planning goals and opportunities on the site. The project would include multiple residential areas with different densities, hospitality and recreation areas, a community facility, and open space.

TABLE 1. PARCEL INFORMATION. Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN), size, and current land use are provided for each of the eleven parcels comprising the Study Area.

APN	Size (acres)	Current Land Use
025-390-002	57±	Residential, agriculture
025-390-003	71.92±	Hot spring resort facilities, radio tower, agriculture

1.2 Responsible Parties

TABLE 2. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES. Applicant, agent, biological consultant, and lead agency are provided.

Applicant (Owner)	
Estrella Associates, Inc. 2727 Buena Vista Drive Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 238-1031 Contact: Dick Willhoit	
Biological Consultant	Lead Agency
Althouse and Meade, Inc. 1602 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 237-9626 Contact: Daniel E. Meade, Ph.D.	City of Paso Robles 1000 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 227-7276

2.0 Methods

Biological surveys of the Study Area were conducted between May 10 and August 10, 1999 by Lynne Dee Althouse. Eight site visits were made during that time. Susan Christopher, a County of San Luis Obispo approved herpetologist, conducted surveys for rare reptiles and amphibians on August 9, 1999, and later re-visited the site to observe bullfrog abundance. Daniel Meade made supplemental visits in June of 1999 and May of 2001. Surveys were conducted on February 5, March 26, April 10, 13, and 19, and June 12, 2007 by Daniel E. Meade, Ph.D. and Jason Dart. Meg Perry, Senior Biologist, conducted additional surveys on August 7 and 8, 2013. Floristic and wildlife surveys were conducted in all portions of the Study Area. All surveys were conducted on foot in order to compile species lists, to search for special status plants and animals, and to photograph the site. Each habitat type in the Study Area was inspected, described, and catalogued. Wildlife documentation included observations of animal presence, nests, tracks, and sign. Birds were identified by sight, using binoculars, or by vocalizations. Identification of botanical resources included field observations and laboratory analysis of collected material. Botanical nomenclature follows the Jepson Manual, unless otherwise noted. Aquatic organisms were identified by sight without capturing them. All plant and animal species observed in the Study Area were identified and recorded. Information from previous biological surveys of the Study Area was used in the preparation of this report (Althouse and Meade, Inc., 1999, 2001, and 2007).

We conducted a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB June 30, 2013 data) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) On-line Inventory of Rare and

Endangered Plants of California for special status species known to occur within five miles of the Study Area. The search area included the Adelaida, Paso Robles, Estrella, York Mountain, Templeton, and Creston quadrangles (7.5 minute USGS).

Additional special status species research consisted of reviewing previous biological reports for the area and searching on-line museum and herbarium specimen records for locality data within San Luis Obispo County. We reviewed online databases of specimen records maintained by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology (MVZ) at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Consortium of California Herbaria. Additional special status species with potential to occur in or near the Study Area were added to our special status species list.

Special status species lists produced by database and literature searches were cross-referenced with the known habitat types in the Study Area to identify all potential special status species that could occur in or near the Study Area. Each special status species with a potential for occurrence on or near the project site is individually discussed. A report was made to the CNDDDB if field surveys found special status species in the Study Area.

3.0 Results

3.1 Existing Conditions

The River Oaks II property (Study Area) is composed of two parcels extending from just west of Buena Vista Drive west to the Salinas River (Appendix B, Figures 1 and 2). Most of the Study Area is situated on a terrace east of the Salinas River and North River Road. North River Road passes along the toe of the terrace, between it and the Salinas River. This terrace is characterized by rolling hills and ephemeral grassy or farmed swales. Swales become more incised and oak studded at the west end of the terrace, draining off the bluff and beneath the road to the river. The western end of the Study Area extends to the center of the Salinas River. The Study Area becomes flat in the eastern end terminating at Buena Vista Drive.

In 2007, agriculture was the primary land use on the site, with the majority planted in commercial grain. Grain fields are still present in most of the previously mapped agricultural areas. In August 2013, these fields were fallow, and the stubble from the most recent crop had recently been grazed down by sheep. One grain field photographed with a young grain crop in 2007 is no longer being farmed. This field was located on a low terrace near the Salinas River, west of River Road, and has since been disturbed for construction of utilities, including the Nacimiento pipeline project. The terrace is now colonized with coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and non-native annual weeds. A well-worn, unpaved access road crosses the terrace and slopes up to meet River Road.

During our earlier site visits in 1999 through 2007, narrow dirt ranch roads provided access to each parcel, but most of the Study Area consisted of road-less rolling hills. In 2013, some paved roads are present, including a road around the south edge of the largest grain field. This road previously provided access to the River Oaks Hot Springs and Spa but has since been closed to through traffic. The Hot Springs and Spa is situated in the center of the Study Area at the northern boundary, just northwest of a large man-made pond. The pond is surrounded by manicured lawns used to stage events, and numerous landscape trees. A communications tower stands at the western end of the property on the bluff overlooking North River Road. An approximately 100-foot radius vegetation-free area surrounding the tower is maintained as a fire break. Maintenance shops, sheds, and other facilities are located on the terrace edge near the tower, and on the north side of the hot springs building.

The winter of 2006-2007 was very dry, with Paso Robles totaling less than half of its average annual rainfall. The ephemeral drainages in the Study Area likely never flowed. Wetland vegetation was not obvious, and many plant species withered before flowering. A wetland delineation was conducted in 2009 that included the Study Area. Ephemeral and seasonal drainages found during the wetland delineation are shown on the Habitat Map of the Study Area. Drought conditions occurred in the Paso Robles area again in 2012 and 2013.

3.2 Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Survey of San Luis Obispo County, California, Paso Robles Area (1984) indicates six soil types occur in the Study Area: Arbuckle fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (100), Arbuckle-Positas complex,

30 to 50 percent slopes (104), Arbuckle-San Ysidro complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes (106), Mocho clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (173), Nacimiento-Ayar complex, 9 to 30 percent slopes (177), and Xerofluvents-Riverwash association (212). Map units typically encompass one or two dominant soils, which cover more than 50 percent of the mapped area, and one to several included soils, which occur in small patches that are not differentiated in mapping. Complete, accurate description of soil types and capabilities for specific uses on a specific site generally requires additional soil investigations by a qualified professional soil scientist. A map of the USDA Soil map units in the Study Area is included in Appendix B, Figure 3.

Arbuckle fine sandy loam (100) is a very deep, nearly level, well-drained soil formed in alluvium derived from mixed rocks. Permeability of Arbuckle soils is moderately slow, and available water capacity is moderate to high. Surface runoff is slow and hazard of erosion is slight due to the gentle slopes. Included in this map unit are about five percent San Ysidro loam and five percent small areas of Cropley clay and Hanford fine sandy loam. This soil type has no limitations or hazards for farming and for building sites, roads, and streets. Most of the Arbuckle fine sandy loam soil type is located on the flat terrace west of Clubhouse Drive, and has not been farmed since prior to our 2007 site visits. This Arbuckle soil is in soil capability class is I (14) irrigated and IVc-1 (14) non-irrigated. When irrigated, this soil is considered prime farmland with no limitations (I). When not irrigated this soil has severe limitations for field crops (IV) due to the high sand content. These limitations are due to dry summer climate that cannot support crops without irrigation (c), and the potential for wind erosion of fine sandy loams (1).

The Arbuckle-Positas complex (104) consists of approximately 40 percent Arbuckle fine sandy loam, 30 percent Positas coarse sandy loam, 15 percent Shimmom loam on north slopes, 10 percent is a soil similar to Positas coarse sandy loam except that it has a very gravelly sandy clay subsoil, and 5 percent is small areas of Ayar silty clay, Balcom loam, Greenfield fine sandy loam, Linne Shaly clay loam, Nacimiento silty clay loam, and Badland. The complex is very deep and well drained, with a moderate to high available water capacity. In the Study Area it occurs along River Road where the hillside slopes up steeply. The Arbuckle-Positas complex with 30 to 50 percent slopes is in capability subclass VIe (14) non-irrigated.

The Arbuckle-San Ysidro complex (106) consists of approximately forty percent Arbuckle fine sandy loam and twenty percent San Ysidro loam. Also included in this map unit are areas of Greenfield fine sandy loam, Hanford fine sandy loam, Cropley clay, Rincon clay loam, and Ryer clay loam. The Arbuckle soil is a very deep, well drained soil formed in alluvium from mixed rocks. It has a moderately slow permeability and a moderate to high available water capacity. The San Ysidro soil is a very deep soil located in low areas associated with old drainageways. It is moderately well drained, with a very slow permeability and a moderate to high available water capacity. This complex is in capability units IIe-1 (14) irrigated, and IVe-1 (14) non-irrigated. The Arbuckle-San Ysidro complex is mapped on gentler slopes of the terrace between North River Road and Buena Vista Drive.

The Mocho clay loam soil type (173) is a very deep, nearly level, well drained soil formed in calcareous alluvium derived from sedimentary rocks. It occurs on alluvial plains. The soil is calcareous throughout. Included with this soil type in mapping are

about 10 percent Still clay loam, five percent of a soil having light brownish grey, calcareous loam and clay loam textures throughout, five percent of a soil having a gravelly sandy loam or gravelly loam overwash 4 to 10 inches thick, and five percent small areas of Sorrento clay loam and Tujunga fine sand. This Mocho soil has moderately slow permeability and a high to very high available water capacity. Surface runoff is slow, and the hazard of erosion is slight. This map unit is in capability class I (14) irrigated, and capability unit IVc-1 (14) non-irrigated. This is one of the most productive soils in the survey area, and is considered prime farmland. It occurs in a long narrow strip between River Road and the Salinas River, and was farmed for dryland grain in 2007. This area has not been farmed in recent years.

The Nacimiento-Ayar complex (177) consists of moderately steep soils on hills. This complex consists of approximately 35 percent Nacimiento silty clay loam and 30 percent Ayar silty clay loam. Areas of these soil types are so intricately mixed that it is not practical to separate them in mapping. Included with these soils in mapping are about 15 percent Linne shaly clay loam, 10 percent Diablo clay, five percent Balcom loam, and five percent small areas of Calodo clay loam, Dibble clay loam, Positas coarse sandy loam, and Shimmon loam. A few areas have deep gullies and rock outcrop. The Nacimiento soil is a moderately deep, well drained soil that formed in material weathered from calcareous sandstone and shale. This Nacimiento soil has moderately slow permeability, and a low to moderate available water capacity. The Ayar soil is a deep, well drained soil that formed in material weathered from calcareous sandstone and shale. This Ayar soil has a slow permeability, and the available water capacity is high to very high. This complex is in capability units IVe-1 (15) irrigated, and IVe-1 (15) non-irrigated. The Nacimiento Ayar complex is the most prevalent soil type on USDA maps for the Study Area. Much of this area was dry farmed in 2013.

Xerofluvents-Riverwash association (212) consists of soils and barren areas on flood plains. The complex consists of approximately 50 percent xerofluvents and 30 percent riverwash. Xerofluvents occur on the flood plains and generally flood twice every four years. Riverwash is on barren areas in and along stream channels, flooding annually. Included in this map unit are areas of Elder loam, Metz loamy sand, and Tujunga fine sand. This map unit occurs along the Salinas River and its floodplain.

3.3 Habitat Types

Seven habitat types occur in the Study Area: agrestal (dryland grain crop), annual grassland, riparian, blue oak woodland, wetland, ruderal, and anthropogenic. A habitat map is provided in Appendix B for reference.

3.3.1 Agrestal (dryland grain crop)

Approximately half the Study Area was planted in cultivated oats and barley during the 2007 spring season (Photos 1, 2, 4). Grain fields were primarily on the eastern half of the Study Area, with an additional field planted in a narrow strip immediately adjacent to the Salinas River, west of North River Road. In 2013, the farmed area was largely consistent with 2007 maps and photos, except that the western river-side field has not been planted in several years and has reverted to ruderal habitat with scattered coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) shrubs.

Dryland grain is a non-irrigated crop on rolling hills, terraces, and swales. The Study Area has a perimeter fence in some areas of old 3-line barbed wire, but does not have wildlife exclusion fencing. Dryland grain crops are typically sprayed with a broad-leaf herbicide to reduce the amount of weeds in the crop. The lack of non-grass plant species in the barley fields is likely due to this type of spraying. Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) and stickwort (*Spergula arvensis*) are weeds that were found to persist with the grain crops. Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) and Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*) were observed growing through grain stubble remaining in August 2013. The agrestal habitat is generally poor wildlife habitat, but does attract certain birds, including red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and savanna sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). Western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were observed in fallow fields in 2013, foraging or perching on the ground. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are likely to forage in the grain where accessible. Special status plants are not expected to occur in the agrestal habitat on site.

Two soil map units in the Study Area are considered prime farmland because the soils are in Class I irrigated. The soil types are: Arbuckle fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (100) and Mocho clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (173). Neither of the areas shown by USDA maps to contain these soil map units was farmed in 2013.

3.3.2 Annual grassland

Grassland plant associations in the Study Area consist of old farm fields that have not recently been in production, seasonally maintained and periodically grazed residential yards, and marginal areas adjacent to roads and drainages (Photo 1). The grasslands are weedy, composed of naturalized Mediterranean grasses such as soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and a mixture of native and non-native forbs. Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) is sometimes present, notably between North River Road and the Salinas River, where some young valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) are also present. All of the grassland areas are disturbed, primarily from previous farming and construction activities. Annual grassland habitat comprises 24± acres of the Study Area. The condition of annual grasslands are similar in 2013 to previous years. One area immediately adjacent to the Hot Springs and Spa has been maintained frequently to provide event parking. This area is discussed further under section 3.3.6, Ruderal.

Landscape plantings along the old paved access road from Buena Vista to the Hot Springs and Spa are mapped with annual grassland habitat because they form a narrow, irregular strip that is impractical to map separately, and because understory and spaces between plantings support annual grassland similar to grassland described elsewhere in the Study Area. Landscape plantings include clusters of coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), as well as box elder, cypress, ash, chitalpa, toyon, coffeeberry, and ceanothus plantings.

3.3.3 Riparian

Mature riparian habitat is present within the Salinas River corridor along the western edge of the Study Area (Photos 5, 6). The river consists of a primary flow channel, with secondary flood channels along the margins. Secondary channels are mapped in the

Study Area, and are jurisdictional drainages. Several riparian plant associations are present, including willow scrub, coyote brush scrub, willow-cottonwood riparian forest, and wetland. The dominant canopy species are red willow (*Salix laevigata*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), box-elder (*Acer negundo*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Common shrub components are narrow-leaved willow (*Salix exigua*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and coyote brush. Riparian habitat comprises approximately 11 acres of the Study Area, extending for 1,630 linear feet.

The diverse vegetation structure in the Salinas River creates excellent wildlife habitat. Songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl are common. In 2007, a beaver had built a system of dams that create ponded water where ducks, frogs, and minnows congregate. Numerous mammal species are residents in the riparian habitat, moving to upland areas at night to forage and returning to the river to spend the day in hiding. Steelhead trout and California red-legged frog, both federally listed threatened species, are potential inhabitants of the Salinas River riparian habitat. Appropriate habitat for two federally listed bird species, Southwestern willow flycatcher and Least Bell's vireo, is also present (see section 3.6.5).

Ephemeral drainages are also present within the Study Area. We describe the drainages as ephemeral, meaning surface flows are only present during and shortly after rain events that cause run-off to enter the watershed. Drainages were mapped during a wetland delineation conducted in 2009, and include flow from the pond offsite into a natural drainage channel. Ephemeral drainages primarily support upland vegetation rather than the hydrophytic willows, cottonwoods, and box elders found near the Salinas River.

3.3.4 Blue oak woodland

Blue oak woodland in the Study Area occurs on the edge of the terrace bluff overlooking North River Road and the Salinas River (Photos 1, and 3). Approximately 4 acres of blue oak woodland occur in the Study Area. This habitat type is dominated by a single species of tree, blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*). It is a dry habitat with a grassy understory. Some valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) are present near the ephemeral drainages, but are generally uncommon. On the bluff the canopy is open and patchy, varying from approximately 20 to 60 percent cover. The canopy is denser in the drainages, averaging approximately 80 percent cover. There is very little recruitment (establishment and presence of young trees) of blue oak trees in the Study Area. The trees are variable in age structure, but tend toward middle to late stage growth. Young trees in the ten to fifty year age range are not present. The slope down to River Road provides moderately appropriate habitat for native wildflowers typically found on banks and slopes in oak woodland such as Booth's primrose (*Camissonia boothii*) and larkspur (*Delphinium parryi*).

3.3.5 Wetland

Wetland habitat was identified in two areas of the Study Area. A formal wetland delineation has been conducted in the Study Area in 2009. Current conditions on the property appear to be consistent with the 2009 delineation. Criteria for federal and state jurisdictional wetlands are defined in section 3.6.7. The largest wetland area occurs in the Salinas River at the western Study Area boundary. The boundaries of this wetland were not mapped, but generally follow the low flow channel of the river. Perennial surface water is supported in this section of the river by discharges from the wastewater

treatment facility on the west bank of the river. The water level fluctuates seasonally with the addition of winter run-off and subsequent spring drying. Beaver activity also affects the water level. The stream margins and elevated sandbars support an herbaceous wetland association composed of umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus*), common threesquare (*Scirpus pungens*), water speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*), mosquito fern (*Azolla filiculoides*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and others.

In the center of the Study Area, a man-made perennial pond is located within an ephemeral drainage that connects with the Salinas River. The pond margins support small patches of American rush (*Scirpus americanus*), an emergent species. Also present are toad rush, yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*), marsh cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), cocklebur, spikerush (*Eleocharis parishii*) and others. Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) and bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) were identified in the pond in both larval and adult stages. Introduced fish species are also present.

Vernal pools were not observed on the property during any of our surveys. Vernal pools are loosely defined as ephemeral bodies of water, typically filled by rainfall, that do not have connectivity to a drainage, and support specialized flora and fauna. Although rainfall during the winter of 2006-2007 was not adequate to maintain water for more than one month in many of the vernal pools in the Paso Robles region, vernal pool features such as ringed vegetation, or depressions with evidence of standing water, were still detectable offsite, locally. We found no indicators of vernal pools in the Study Area. Several potential ephemeral low spots were noted in the disturbed annual grassland habitat near the southern property line, west of Clubhouse Drive. Water was not present during our site surveys, but the soil and vegetation suggested one to two inches of shallow standing water was present for durations of perhaps one week. These depressions occur along the Study Area boundary and are likely the result of past earth-moving activities associated with the construction of the adjacent River Oaks I project.

These ephemeral depressions were sampled for fairy shrimp during dry and wet season surveys in 2007/2008. No fairy shrimp or other rare branchiopods were found. Wetland vegetation and specialized vernal pool flora were not observed, thus these areas were described as ephemeral depressions rather than vernal pools. The ephemeral depressions observed in 2008 are not apparent in 2013, due to landscape management and maintenance.

Other patches of wetland documented in the wetland delineation occur outside the Study Area.

3.3.6 Ruderal

Habitat areas bordering roads and farm fields that are composed primarily of weedy forbs are described as ruderal habitat. Ruderal species are those that are quick to colonize disturbed areas, such as cut and fill slopes from road construction, and tilled margins of farm fields that did not get seeded with grain. The most common ruderal species in the Study Area are field mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tocolote (*Centaurea melitensis*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and several low growing species such as knotweed (*Polygonum arenastrum*) and sand spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*). All of these plants are non-native in origin and weedy in habit.

In 2007 a grain field bordered riparian habitat, situated between the Salinas River and River Road. This field was disturbed for construction of the Nacimiento pipeline project and has not been farmed recently. By 2013 this field was a mix of ruderal, coyote brush scrub, annual and grassland, with occasional mulefat and sandbar willows recruiting (Photo 6).

One area previously mapped as annual grassland is frequently used for event parking adjacent to the River Oaks Hot Spring and Spa. Irrigation valves and some stand pipes are present, and mow lines indicate frequent maintenance. Dominant vegetation in this frequently maintained area is non-native Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Thus this area was mapped in 2013 as ruderal habitat. Approximately 13± acres of ruderal habitat were mapped in the Study Area.

3.3.7 Anthropogenic

Anthropogenic habitat is mapped where human influence has altered the landscape such that natural habitat areas are no longer present (Photo 8). These areas include the hot springs facility and surrounding landscape and high use areas, the communications tower and surrounding vegetation-free zone, a construction staging area, paved roads landscaped areas, and old homesteads where structures have been removed but cultivated vegetation and site alterations remain. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), a noxious species, was identified in anthropogenic areas at the northeast portion of the Study Area. We recommend removal of this plant because this species is highly invasive. A total of 23± acres of anthropogenic habitat were mapped in the Study Area. Special status plants and animals are not expected to occur in the anthropogenic habitat areas.

3.4 Plant List

Floristic surveys conducted in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2007 identified 141 species of plants on the property (Table 3). Follow-up surveys in August 2013 conducted to verify conditions of the site had not changed significantly found 46 additional plant species. The majority of species added to the list in 2013 are cultivated plants and weeds. Taxonomy has been updated to Jepson Manual 2nd edition, with older names given in brackets. Surveys were floristic in nature, identifying all species encountered, and were conducted at appropriate times of the year to locate potential special status species. The high number of introduced species is indicative of long-term disturbance to natural communities on the property from farming and construction.

TABLE 3. PLANT LIST. The 187 species of plants identified on the property consist of 80 native species and 107 introduced or planted species. Special status plants were not identified on the property.

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
Ferns - 1 Species			
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	None	Native	Mosquito fern

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
Trees - 24 Species			
<i>Acer negundo</i>	None	Native	Box-elder
<i>Acer</i> sp.	None	Planted	Maple
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	None	Planted	Silk tree
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	{noxious}	Introduced	Tree of Heaven
<i>Cercis occidentalis</i>	None	Native (Planted)	Redbud
<i>Chitalpa tashkentensis</i>	None	Planted	Chitalpa
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	None	Planted	Italian cypress
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	None	Planted	Ash
<i>Hesperocyparis</i> [= <i>Cupressus</i>] <i>macrocarpa</i>	None	Planted	Monterey cypress
<i>Juglanshindsii</i> [= <i>J. californica</i> var. <i>hindsii</i>]	None	Native	California walnut
<i>Morus alba</i>	None	Planted	Fruitless mulberry
<i>Olea europaea</i>	None	Planted	Olive
<i>Pinus</i> sp.	None	Planted	Pine
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	None	Native	Western sycamore
<i>Platanus</i> x <i>hispanica</i> [= <i>P.</i> x <i>acerifolia</i>]	None	Planted	Plane tree
<i>Populus fremontii</i> ssp. <i>fremontii</i>	None	Native	Fremont cottonwood
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	None	Planted	Apricot
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	None	Planted	Purple leaf plum
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	None	Planted	Coast live oak
<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	None	Native	Blue oak
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	None	Native	Valley oak
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	None	Planted	Weeping willow
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	None	Native	Red willow
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	None	Planted	Chinese elm
Shrubs – 25 Species			
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	None	Planted	Strawberry tree
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> sp.	None	Planted	Manzanita
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>	None	Introduced	Australian saltbush
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	None	Native	Coyote brush
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	None	Native	Mule fat
<i>Buddleja</i> sp.	None	Planted	Butterfly bush
<i>Callistemon</i> sp.	None	Planted	Bottlebrush

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
<i>Ceanothus</i> sp.	None	Native (Planted)	California lilac
<i>Cistus</i> sp.	None	Planted	Rock rose
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	None	Native	Jimsonweed
<i>Eriogonum elongatum</i>	None	Native	Flongate buckwheat
<i>Frangula [=Rhamnus] californica</i>	None	Planted	Coffeeberry
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	None	Native (Planted)	Toyon
<i>Lavandula</i> sp.	None	Planted	Lavendar
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	None	Native	Bush lupine
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	None	Planted	Common oleander
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	None	Planted	Prickly pear
<i>Pyracantha</i> sp.	None	Planted	Firethorn
<i>Rosa californica</i>	None	Native	California rose
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	None	Planted	Rosemary
<i>Salix exigua</i>	None	Native	Narrow-leaved willow
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	None	Native	Arroyo willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>caerulea</i> [= <i>S. mexicana</i>]	None	Native	Blue elderberry
<i>Syringa</i> sp.	None	Planted	Lilac
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	None	Native	Poison oak
Herbs – 113 Species			
<i>Acmispon brachycarpus</i> [= <i>Lotus purshianus</i>]	None	Native	Spanish clover
<i>Acmispon</i> [= <i>Lotus</i>] <i>humistratus</i>	None	Native	Hill lotus
<i>Alisma triviale</i> [= <i>A. 13nagalli-aquatica</i>]	None	Native	Water plantain
<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	None	Introduced	Tumbleweed amaranth
<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	None	Introduced	Pigweed
<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i>	None	Native	Pigweed
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	None	Native	Annual bursage
<i>Amsinckia intermedia</i> [= <i>A. menziesii</i> var. <i>i.</i>]	None	Native	Common fiddleneck
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>	None	Native	Common fiddleneck
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	None	Introduced	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	None	Introduced	Bur chervil
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	None	Native	Mugwort
<i>Asclepias eriocarpa</i>	None	Native	Kotolo milkweed
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	None	Native	Narrow-leaved milkweed

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	None	Introduced	Black mustard
<i>Camissonia</i> sp.	None	Native	Sun cups
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	None	Introduced	Shepherd's purse
<i>Cardamine oligosperma</i>	None	Native	Bitter-cress
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	None	Introduced	Italian thistle
<i>Carex</i> sp.	None	Native	Sedge
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	None	Introduced	Tocolote
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	None	Introduced	Yellow star thistle
<i>Centromadia [Hemizonia] pungens</i> ssp. <i>pungens</i>	None	Native	Common tarweed
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	None	Introduced	Mouse-eared chickweed
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	None	Introduced	Lamb's-quarters
<i>Cirsium occidentale</i>	None	Native	California thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	None	Introduced	Bull thistle
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>	None	Native	Miner's lettuce
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	None	Introduced	Poison hemlock
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	None	Introduced	Bindweed
<i>Cotula australis</i>	None	Introduced	Southern brass buttons
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	None	Introduced	Brass buttons
<i>Crassula tillaea</i>	None	Introduced	Moss pygmyweed
<i>Croton setiger [=C. setigerus]</i>	None	Native	Dove weed
<i>Cuscuta subinclusa</i>	None	Native	Riparian dodder
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	None	Native	Umbrella sedge
<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	None	Introduced	Yellow nutsedge
<i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i>	None	Native	Blue dicks
<i>Eleocharis parishii</i>	None	Native	Small spikerush
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	None	Native	Willow herb
<i>Erigeron [=Conyza] bonariensis</i>	None	Introduced	Asthmaweed
<i>Erigeron [=Conyza] canadensis</i>	None	Native	Common horseweed
<i>Erodium botrys</i>	None	Introduced	Fillaree
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	None	Introduced	Redstem filaree
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	None	Introduced	Greenstem filaree
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	None	Native	California poppy
<i>Euthamia occidentalis</i>	None	Native	Western goldenrod
<i>Gallium aparine</i>	None	Native	Goose grass
<i>Geranium molle</i>	None	Introduced	Geranium

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
<i>Gnaphalium palustre</i>	None	Native	Marsh cudweed
<i>Helenium puberulum</i>	None	Native	Sneezeweed
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	None	Native	Telegraph weed
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	None	Introduced	Perennial mustard
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	None	Introduced	Smooth cat's ear
<i>Iris</i> sp.	None	Planted	Bearded iris
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	None	Native	Toadrush
<i>Juncus phaeocephalus</i>	None	Native	Brown-headed rush
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	None	Introduced	Prickly lettuce
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	None	Introduced	Henbit
<i>Lemna minor</i>	None	Native	Duckweed
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	None	Introduced	Perennial pepperweed
<i>Lepidium nitidum</i>	None	Native	Pepperwort
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	None	Introduced	Birdsfoot trefoil
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> ssp. <i>peploides</i>	None	Native	Yellow waterweed
<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	None	Native	Sky blue lupine
<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	None	Introduced	Loosestrife
<i>Mulva nicueensis</i>	None	Introduced	Bull mallow
<i>Malvella leprosa</i>	None	Native	Alkali mallow
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	None	Introduced	Horehound
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i> [= <i>Chamomilla suaveolens</i>]	None	Introduced	Pineapple weed
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	None	Introduced	California burclover
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	None	Introduced (walf)	Alfalfa
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	None	Introduced	White sweetclover
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	None	Introduced	Annual sweetclover
<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>	None	Native	Stream monkeyflower
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	None	Native	Common watercress
<i>Persicaria</i> [= <i>Polygonum</i>] <i>hydropiperoides</i>	None	Native	Smartweed
<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i> ssp. <i>tomentosum</i> [= <i>P. villosum</i>]	None	Native	Oak mistletoe
<i>Phoradendron serotinum</i> ssp. <i>macrophyllum</i> [<i>P.</i> <i>macrophyllum</i>]	None	Native	Big-leaf mistletoe
<i>Plagiobothrys canescens</i>	None	Native	Popcorn flower
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	None	Introduced	Cutleaf plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	None	Introduced	English plantain

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
<i>Plantago major</i>	None	Introduced	Common plantain
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> ssp. <i>depressum</i> [<i>P. arenastrum</i>]	None	Introduced	Common knotweed
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	None	Introduced	Purslane
<i>Pseudognaphalium</i> [= <i>Gnaphalium</i>] <i>canescens</i>	None	Native	Everlasting
<i>Pseudognaphalium</i> [= <i>Gnaphalium</i>] <i>luteoalbum</i>	None	Introduced	Cudweed
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	None	Introduced	Curly dock
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	None	Introduced	Russian thistle
<i>Schoenoplectus</i> [= <i>Scirpus</i>] <i>americanus</i>	None	Native	Threesquare
<i>Schoenoplectus</i> [= <i>Scirpus</i>] <i>californicus</i>	None	Native	Bulrush
<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i> var. <i>longispicatus</i> [<i>Scirpus</i> <i>pungens</i>]	None	Native	Common threesquare
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	None	Introduced	Milk thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	None	Introduced	Prickly sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	None	Introduced	Common sow thistle
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	None	Introduced	Stickwort
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	None	Introduced	Sand spurrey
<i>Stellaria media</i>	None	Native	Chickweed
<i>Thysanocarpus curvipes</i>	None	Native	Lacepod
<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	None	Native	Vinegar weed
<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>	None	Introduced	Strawberry clover
<i>Tropidocarpum gracile</i>	None	Native	Dobiepod
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	None	Native	Narrow-leaved cattail
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>holosericea</i>	None	Native	Nettle
<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>	None	Native	Verbena
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i>	None	Introduced	Water speedwell
<i>Veronica persica</i>	None	Introduced	Persian speedwell
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	None	Introduced	Common vetch
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	None	Introduced	Winter vetch
<i>Wolffia columbiana</i>	None	Native	Water-meal
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	None	Native	Spiny cocklebur
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	None	Native	Common cocklebur
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	None	Native	Horned pondweed

Scientific Name	Special Status	Origin	Common Name
Grasses – 24 Species			
<i>Avena barbata</i>	None	Introduced	Slender wild oat
<i>Avena fatua</i>	None	Introduced	Wild oat
<i>Avena sativa</i>	None	Introduced	Cultivated oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	None	Introduced	Ripgut brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	None	Introduced	Soft chess brome
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i>	None	Introduced	Red top brome
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	None	Introduced	Cheat grass
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	None	Planted	Pampas grass
<i>Crypsis schoenoides</i>	None	Introduced	Swamp grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	None	Introduced	Bermuda grass
<i>Eragrostis pectinacea</i>	None	Native	Love grass
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	None	Introduced	Tall fescue
<i>Festuca [=Vulpia] myuros</i>	None	Introduced	Rattail fescue
<i>Festuca perennis</i> [= <i>Lolium multiflorum</i>]	None	Introduced	Italian ryegrass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	None	Introduced	Foxtail barley
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	None	Introduced	Barley
<i>Leptochloa fusca</i> ssp. <i>fascicularis</i> [= <i>Leptochloa fascicularis</i>]	None	Introduced	Bearded sprangletop
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	None	Planted	Deer grass
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	None	Introduced	Dallis grass
<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	None	Introduced	Harding grass
<i>Poa annua</i>	None	Introduced	Annual bluegrass
<i>Polypogon interruptus</i>	None	Introduced	Ditch beardgrass
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	None	Introduced	Annual beardgrass
<i>Stipa [=Nassella] pulchra</i>	None	Native	Purple needlegrass

3.5 Wildlife List

More than 148 animal species have the potential to occur on the property (Table 4). These include at least 11 fish, 8 amphibians, 13 reptiles, 96 birds, and 21 mammals. Several rodent species (e.g., California vole, harvest mouse, etc.) are expected to be residents on the property; however, no trapping was conducted as part of this study.

The grasslands and farmland provide foraging habitat for raptors and predators, including golden eagle, red-tail hawk, red-shouldered hawk, white-tailed kite, American kestrel, fox, coyote, and bobcat. Amphibians, including chorus frog, bullfrog, and western toad were observed in the permanent pond on the property, and are also likely to occur in the Salinas River. Western spadefoot toad will breed in ephemeral pools, when present, and may use rodent burrows in upland habitat through the dry season. Gopher snake and king snake are likely residents on site, and other common snake species may also occur. Raccoon, opossum, and striped skunk will forage in the Salinas River, and bobcat, grey and red foxes, and coyotes hunt cottontails and other rodents in the riparian habitat. Mule deer tracks are common in the Salinas River. Deer are likely to forage on the property occasionally, particularly where grain fields are accessible. The permanent lake contains numerous introduced fish species, including catfish, bluegill, mosquito fish, and bass. Sixty species of birds were observed on the property.

TABLE 4. WILDLIFE LIST. More than 148 animal species have the potential to occur on the property. The Special Status column indicates listing status of the organism under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the State Endangered Species Act, or by the CDFG (see Appendix D for status definitions). Species observed on the property during our surveys are designated by the check symbol (✓) in the fourth column.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Fish - 11 species				
Sacramento Sucker	<i>Catostomus occidentalis</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Mosquito Fish	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	None	✓	Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Three-spine Stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
California Roach	<i>Hesperoleucus symmetricus</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Black Bullhead Catfish	<i>Ictalurus melas</i>	None	✓	Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	None	✓	Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Large Mouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	None	✓	Rivers, lakes, ponds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Steelhead - South/Central ESU	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT ¹		Rivers and streams with an ocean connection
Sacramento Squawfish	<i>Ptychocheilus grandis</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Speckled Dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>	None		Rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds
Amphibians - 8 species				
Arboreal Salamander	<i>Aneides lugubris</i>	None		Oak Woodland
Black-bellied Slender Salamander	<i>Batrachoseps nigriventris</i>	None		Oak woodlands, moist areas, found under cardboard on the site
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas halophilus</i>	None	✓	Grassland, woodland
Monterey Ensatina	<i>Ensatina eschscholzi</i>	None		Riparian, oak woodlands, grasslands
Pacific Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	None	✓	Many habitats near water
Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	None	✓	Perennial streams, ponds
California Red-legged Frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT		Streams, creeks, and ponds
Western Spadefoot Toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	SSC ²		Grassland habitat with seasonal pools
Reptiles - 13 species				
Southwestern Pond Turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	SSC		Lakes, ponds, streams
Western Yellow-bellied Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor mormon</i>	None		Grasslands, open areas
Northern Pacific Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus oreganus</i>	None		Dry, rocky habitats
Monterey Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus vandenburgii</i>	None		Woodlands, grasslands, chaparral
California Alligator Lizard	<i>Elgaria multicarinata multicarinata</i>	None		Open grassland, woodland, chaparral
Western Skink	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus skiltonianus</i>	None		Woodland, grassland, chaparral
California Kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getula californiae</i>	None		Woodland, grassland, streams
California Striped Racer	<i>Masticophis lateralis lateralis</i>	None		Chaparral, brush habitats

¹ FT = Federally listed Threatened

² CSC = California Special Concern species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Pacific gopher Snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer catenifer</i>	None	✓	Woodland, grassland
Western Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	None	✓	Wide range
Two-striped Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	SSC		Rocky streams, ponds, wetlands.
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	None		Many habitats near water
Birds - 96 species				
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	SSC	✓	Woodlands
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	SSC		Oak, riparian woodland
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatilis</i>	None		Nests in cliffs
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	None	✓	Marshes, fields
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	PRBO 2 nd Priority ³		Grassland
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	None	✓	Aquatic habitats
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	None	✓	Aquatic habitats
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	None	✓	Fields, beaches, etc.
Western Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	None	✓	Oak and riparian woodlands
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	SSC	✓	Mountainous areas, hunts over open plains, fields, valleys
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	None	✓	Water habitats, grassland
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	None	✓	Water habitats, grassland
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC		Grasslands with ground squirrel burrows
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycella cedrorum</i>	None		Variety habitats with berry source
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	None		Varied habitats
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	None	✓	Ponds, lakes
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	None	✓	Open, semi-open country
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	None	✓	Oak and riparian woodlands
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	SSC		Open habitats
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	None	✓	Water habitats
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	None	✓	Pond margins, shorelines
California Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>	None	✓	Oak, riparian woodlands

³ PRBO 2nd Priority: Point Reyes Bird Observatory Bird Species of Special Concern Lists.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	None	✓	Oak, riparian woodland, scrub
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	None	✓	Riparian, oak woodlands
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	None	✓	Weedy fields, woodlands
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	None	✓	Wide habitat range
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	None		Woodlands, urban areas
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	None	✓	Open country, oak woodlands
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	None		Moist woodlands
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Cerle alcyon</i>	None		Water habitats
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	None	✓	Mud flats, stream banks
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	None	✓	Woodland edges
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	None	✓	Woodlands
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Columba fasciata</i>	None		Woodlands, urban trees
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	None	✓	Urban areas
Western Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>	None	✓	Riparian woodlands
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	None	✓	Open oak, riparian woodland,
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	None		Woodlands, chaparral
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	None	✓	Riparian, oak woodlands
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	None		Riparian, oak woodlands
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	SSC		Riparian, oak woodlands
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	SSC		Nests in dense live oaks
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	None	✓	Riparian, oak woodlands
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	None	✓	Open habitats
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	None	✓	Open, semi-open country
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	None	✓	Aquatic habitats
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	None	✓	Marshes, wetlands, stream-sides
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	None		Marshes, streamsides
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	None		Open country, farmyards
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	None		Variety of habitats with trees and nectar source

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	None	✓	Oak woodland
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SSC	✓	Nests in shrubs, trees near open areas
Acom Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	None	✓	Oak woodland
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo merriami</i>	None		Woodlands
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	None	✓	Oak and Riparian woodland
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	None	✓	Riparian, chaparral and woodlands. Also urban
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus oter</i>	None		Rural areas, ranches
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	None		Open areas near oaks
Western Screech-owl	<i>Otus kennicottii</i>	None		Oak woodlands
Oak Titmouse	<i>Parus inornatus</i>	None	✓	Oak woodlands
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	None	✓	Urban areas
Savanna Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	None	✓	Open habitats, marshes, grasslands
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	None	✓	Urban; open areas near water
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	None		Dry woodlands
Yellow-billed Magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	None	✓	Oak savanna
Nuttall's Woodpecker	<i>Picoides nuttollii</i>	None	✓	Oak woodland, savanna
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	None		Riparian, oak woodlands
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	None		Woodlands
California Towhee	<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	None	✓	Brushy habitats
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	None		Dense brushy areas
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	None		Woodlands
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>	None	✓	Mixed woods
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	None	✓	Oak, riparian, chaparral, scrub
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>	None	✓	Varied upland, urban
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calundula</i>	None		Oak and riparian woodlands
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	None	✓	Near water
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	None		Open country, grassland

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	None	✓	Riparian woodland, ranch land
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	None	✓	Oak savanna
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	None		Riparian, lakes
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	None	✓	Grasslands
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	None	✓	Agricultural, urban
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	None	✓	Wooded habitats, water
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	None	✓	Woodland habitats
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	None	✓	Shrubby areas
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	None		Shrubby areas
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	None		Streamsides, woodlands
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	None	✓	Nests in trees, hunts in grasslands
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	None		Agricultural, woodlands
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	None		Oak, riparian woodlands
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	None		Oak, riparian woodlands
Hutton's Vireo	<i>Vireo huttonii</i>	None		Oak, riparian woodlands
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	None	✓	Oak, riparian woodlands
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	None	✓	Open and semi-open area
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	None	✓	Shrubby, weedy areas
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	None	✓	Shrubby, weedy areas
Mammals - 21 species				
Coyote	<i>Canus latrans</i>	None		Open woodlands, prairies, brushy areas, wide ranging.
American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	None	✓	Ponds, rivers, creeks
Opossum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>	None		Woodlands, streams
Feral Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	None	✓	Varied
Mountain Lion	<i>Felis concolor</i>	None		Woodlands
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus colifornicus</i>	None		Grasslands
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	None		Chaparral and woodlands
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	None		Mixed woods, brush, semi-open country

Common Name	Scientific Name	Special Status	Found in the project areas?	Habitat Type
California Vole	<i>Microtus californicus</i>	None		Grassland meadows
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	None		Grasslands
Dusky-footed Woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes</i>	None		Riparian, oak woodlands
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	None	✓	Many habitats
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	None		All dry land habitats
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	None		Streams, lakes, rock cliffs, dens in trees
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithodontomys megalotis</i>	None		Grassland, dense vegetation near water
Ornate Shrew	<i>Sorex ornatus</i>	None		Streamsides, woodlands
California Ground Squirrel	<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	None	✓	Grasslands
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	None		Brushy areas, meadows
Brush Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani</i>	None	✓	Brushy habitats
American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC		Grasslands
Valley Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	None	✓	Variety of habitats
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	None		Chaparral
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes fulva</i>	None		Forest and open country

3.6 Special Status Plants and Animals

The CNDDDB and the CNPS On-line Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California contain records for 39 special status species and one sensitive natural community within the designated search area (Table 5). The search area included the Adelaida, Paso Robles, Estrella, York Mountain, Templeton, and Creston USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles. Sixteen additional special status species and one sensitive natural community were added to the list from our knowledge of the area (Table 4). These elements are marked with an asterisk (*). Appropriate habitat and soil conditions are present for four special status plants and seventeen special status animals. Appendix B, Figure 4 depicts the current GIS data for special status species mapped in the vicinity of the project areas.

3.6.1 Introduction to California Rare Plant Ranks (Formerly CNPS lists)

Plant species are considered rare when their distribution is confined to localized areas, when there is a threat to their habitat, when they are declining in abundance, or are threatened in a portion of their range. The listing categories range from species with a low threat (List 4) to species that are presumed extinct (List 1A). The 1058 plants of List 1B are rare throughout their range. All but a few species are endemic to California. All of them are judged to be vulnerable under present circumstances, or to have a high potential for becoming vulnerable.

3.6.2 Introduction to CNDDDB definitions

"Special plants" is a broad term used to refer to all the plant taxa inventoried by the CNDDDB, regardless of their legal or protection status. Special plants include vascular plants and high priority bryophytes (mosses, liverworts, and hornworts).

"Special Animals" is a general term that refers to all of the animal taxa inventoried by the CNDDDB, regardless of their legal or protection status. The Special Animals list is also referred to by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), formerly California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as the list of "species at risk" or "special status species". These taxa may be listed or proposed for listing under the State and/or Federal Endangered Species Acts, but they may also be species deemed biologically rare, restricted in range, declining in abundance, or otherwise vulnerable.

Each species included on the Special Animals list has a corresponding Global and State Rank. This ranking system utilizes a numbered hierarchy from one to five following the Global (G-rank) or State (S-rank) category. The threat level of the organism decreases with an increase in the rank number (1=Critically Imperiled, 5=Secure). In some cases where an uncertainty exists in the designation, a question mark (?) is placed after the rank. More information is available at www.natureserve.org.

Animals listed as California Species of Special Concern (SSC) may or may not be listed under California or Federal Endangered Species Acts. They are considered rare or declining in abundance in California. The Special Concern designation is intended to provide the Department of Fish and Wildlife, biologists, land planners and managers with lists of species that require special consideration during the planning process in order to avert continued population declines and potential costly listing under federal and state endangered species laws. For many species of birds, the primary emphasis is on the

breeding population in California. For some species that do not breed in California but winter here, emphasis is on wintering range. The SSC designation thus may include a comment regarding the specific protection provided such as nesting or wintering.

Animals listed as Fully Protected are those species considered by CDFW as rare or faced with possible extinction. Most, but not all, have subsequently been listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no provision of the CDFG code authorizes the issuance of permits or licenses to take any Fully Protected species.

3.6.3 Special status species list

Table 5 lists all 57 special status species known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Federal and state status, global and state rank, CNPS listing status (plants), and CDFW designation (animals) for each species are given. Typical blooming period, habitat preference, potential habitat on site, whether or not the species was observed on the property, and the effect of the proposed activity are also provided.

TABLE 5. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST. Fifty-seven special status species and two sensitive natural communities were determined by our research to occur in the Adelaida, Paso Robles, Estrella, York Mountain, Templeton, and Creston quadrangles. Eight special status plants and nineteen special status animals could potentially occur on the property. Potential impacts are outlined in section 5.0, and mitigation recommendations are provided in section 6.0.

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank CRPR List	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
Plants							
1.	Douglas's fiddleneck <i>Amsinckia douglasiana</i>	None/none G3/S3.2 CRPR 4.2	Mar - Jun	Unstable shaly sedimentary slopes; (100) 150–1600 m. SCoR, w WTR	Yes. Slopes between River Road and the upper terrace are moderately appropriate.	No	Not Significant
2.	Oval-leaved Snapdragon <i>Antirrhinum ovatum</i>	None/none G3/S3.2 CRPR 4.2	May November	Heavy, adobe-clay soils on gentle, open slopes, also disturbed areas; 200-1000 m. s SnIV, s SCoRI	No. Recorded on the Chandler Ranch in 1991, but not reported there since. Appropriate soils not found on site.	No	Not Significant
3.	Bishop Manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos obispoensis</i>	None/none G3/S3? CRPR 4.3	February - March	Rocky, gen serpentine soils, chaparral, open close-cone forest near coast; 60-950 m; SCoRO	No. Appropriate soil and habitat are not present.	No	Not Significant
4.	Salinas Milk-Vetch <i>Astragalus macrodon</i>	None/none G3/S3.3 CRPR 4.3	April – July	Eroded pale shales or sandstone, or serpentine alluvium; 300-950 m. SCoR	No. Appropriate soil type not found on site.	No	Not Significant
5.	Round-leaved Filaree <i>California (=Erodium) macrophyllum</i>	None/none G4/S2.1 CRPR 2.1	March - May	Clay soils in eismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland; 15-1200 m. ScV, n SnJV, CW, SCo, n ChI	No. Farming has eliminated potential habitat from the site.	No	Not Significant
6.	Dwarf Calycadenia <i>Calycadenia villosa</i>	None/none G2/S2.1 CRPR 1B.1	May - October	Dry, rocky hills, ridges, in chaparral, woodland, meadows and seeps; <1100 m. c&s SCoRO	Unlikely. Barren areas of the steep bluff on the east side of River Road are moderately appropriate for this species.	No	Not Significant

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank CRPR List	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
7.	Santa Cruz Mountains Pusypaws <i>Calyptridium parryi</i> var. <i>hesseae</i>	None/none G3G4T2/S2 CRPR 1B.1	May – August	Sandy or gravelly openings in chaparral and cismontane woodland. 700-1100 m. n SCoRI, s SnFrB	No. Appropriate habitat is not present.	No	Not Significant
8.	Obispo Indian Paintbrush <i>Castilleja densiflora</i> ssp. <i>obispoensis</i>	None/none G5T2/S2.2 CRPR 1B.2	April	Coastal grassland, <100 m. Endemic to SLO County.	Unlikely. Farming has eliminated most of the potential habitat from the site.	No	Not Significant
9.	Lemmon's Jewelflower <i>Caulanthus coulteri</i> var. <i>lemmonii</i>	None/none G4T2/S2.2 CRPR 1B.2	March – May	Dry, exposed slopes; 80-800 m. sw SnJV, se SnFrB, c SCoRO, SCoRI	No. Appropriate drying slopes are not present on site.	No	Not Significant
10.	Douglas' Spineflower* <i>Chorizanthe douglasii</i>	None/none G3/S3.3 CRPR 4.3	April - July	Foothill woodland, pine forest, chaparral, sandy or gravelly soils; 200-1600 m. e SCoRO, SCoRI	Unlikely. Barren areas of the steep bluff on the east side of River Road are moderately appropriate for this species.	No	Not Significant
11.	Eastwood's Larkspur <i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>eastwoodiae</i>	None/none G4T2/S2 CRPR 1B.2	March – May	Coastal chaparral, grassland, on serpentine; 100-500m sCCo, SCoRO (San Luis Obispo County)	No. Appropriate soil and habitat are not present.	No	Not Significant
12.	Umbrella Larkspur <i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i>	None/none G2G3/S2S3.3 CRPR 1B.3	April - June	Moist oak forest; 400-1600 m. SCoRO, WTR	No. Appropriate moist oak forest is not present on site.	No	Not Significant
13.	Yellow-flowered Eriastrum <i>Eriastrum luteum</i>	None/none G2/S2.2 CRPR 1B.2	May – June	Drying slopes; <1000 m. SCoR Monterey, SLO Counties	Unlikely. Barren areas of the steep bluff on the east side of River Road are moderately appropriate for this species.	No	Not Significant
14.	Elegant Wild Buckwheat <i>Eriogonum elegans</i>	None/none G3/S3 CRPR 4.3	May – November	Sand or gravel; 200 – 1200 m. SnFrB, SCoR, WTR	Yes. Moderately appropriate gravel soils are present in the Salinas River upper floodplain where dry sandy soils are present during the dry season.	No	Not Significant

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank CRPR List	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
15.	Hogwallow Starfish <i>Hesperovax caulescens</i>	None/none G3/S3.2 CRPR 4.2	March - June	Clay soils, mesic sites in valley and foothill grassland, 0-305 m.	No. Areas with appropriate soils have been farmed for many years.	No	Not Significant
16.	Mesa Horkelia <i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>puberula</i>	None/none G4T2/S2.1 CRPR 1B.1	February - September	Dry, sandy coastal chaparral; gen 70-700 m. SCoRO, SCo.	No. Appropriate soil and habitat combination not present on site.	No	Not Significant
17.	Kellogg's Horkelia <i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i>	None/none G4T1/S1.1 CRPR 1B.1	April - September	Old dunes, coastal sand hills; <200 m. CCo	No. Appropriate dune soils not present on site.	No	Not Significant
18.	Santa Lucia dwarf rush <i>Juncus luciensis</i>	None/none G2G3/S2S3 List 1B.2	April - July	Vernal pools, ephemeral drainages, wet meadow habitats, and streams; 300-2040 m. n SNH, SCoRO, TR, PR	Yes. Moderately appropriate habitat is present near a man-made pond.	No	Not Significant
19.	Salinas Valley Goldfields* <i>Lasthenia leptalea</i>	None/none G3/S3.3 CRPR 4.3	April	Open areas in woods, valley and foothill grassland; <500 m. Monterey & SLO Counties	No. Farming has eliminated potential habitat from the site.	No	Not Significant
20.	Pale-Yellow Layia <i>Layia heterotricha</i>	None/none G1/S1.1 CRPR 1B	March - June	Alkaline or clay soils, open areas, in pinyon-juniper woodland, grassland; 270-1705 m. Teh, SnJV, SCoR, n WTR	No. Appropriate soil and habitat types are not present on site.	No	Not Significant
21.	Jared's Peppergrass <i>Lepidium jaredii</i> ssp. <i>jaredii</i>	None/none G1T1/S1.2 CRPR 1B.2	March - May	Alkali bottoms, slopes, washes, <500 m. SCoRI, SnJV	No. Appropriate soil and habitat types are not present on site.	No	Not Significant
22.	Santa Lucia Bush Mallow <i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	None/none G3T2Q/S2.2 CRPR 1B.2	May - July	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; 30-1100 m. s CCo, SCoRO	No. Appropriate habitat not present on site.	No	Not Significant
23.	Woodland Woollythreads <i>Monolopia gracilens</i>	None/none G2G3/S2S3 CRPR 1B.2	March - July	Chaparral, serpentine grassland, cismontane woodland, sandy to rocky soils; SnFrB, SCoR	No. Appropriate soil and habitat are not present.	No	Not Significant
24.	Paso Robles Navarretia* <i>Navarretia jaredii</i>	None/none G3S3.3 CRPR 4.3	April - July	Open, grassy areas, often in clay, limestone, or serpentine. 200-500 m. SCoRI, SW	No. Appropriate habitat is not present on site.	No	Not Significant

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank CRPR List	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
25.	Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	Threatened/None G1/S1 CRPR 1B.1	April - June	Chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas, and vernal pools; 30-1300m. SCoRO, SCo, to Baja Cal.	No. Appropriate soil and habitat are not present.	No	Not Significant
26.	Shining Navarretia <i>Navarretia nigelliformis</i> ssp. <i>radians</i>	None/none G4T1/S1.1 CRPR 1B.2	May - July	Vernal pools, clay depressions, open areas in mesic grasslands; 100-1000 m.	No. Appropriate habitat and soil types not present on site.	No	Not Significant
27.	Large-Flowered Nemacladus <i>Nemacladus secundiflorus</i> var. <i>secundiflorus</i>	None/none G3T3?/S3? CRPR 4.3	April May	Dry, gravelly slopes; 200-2000m. s SNH, SCoR	Yes. Slopes between River Road and the upper terrace are moderately appropriate.	No	Not Significant
28.	Rayless Ragwort* <i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	None/none G3?/S1.2 CRPR 2.2	January - April	Drying alkaline flats, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; <400 m. CW, SCo, Chi	No. Appropriate soils and habitat types not present.	No	Not Significant
29.	San Bernardino Aster* <i>Symphytotrichum defoliatum</i>	None/none G3/S3.2 CRPR 1B.2	July - November	Vernally mesic grasslands near ditches, streams, springs, or disturbed areas; 2-2040 m.	No. Collection record for "North of Creston" is not positively identified. Location possibly too far north.	No	Not Significant
30.	Cook's Tritoleia <i>Triteleia tixioides</i> ssp. <i>cookii</i>	None/none G5G2/S2.3 CRPR 1B.3	May - June	Streamsides, ravines on serpentine near cypresses; <500 m. SCoRO	No. Appropriate serpentine soil and cypress forest habitat not present on site.	No	Not Significant

Habitat characteristics are from the Jepson Manual and the CDNNB.

*not listed in the CNDDDB or CNPS for the search area, but possible for the location.

Abbreviations:

CCo: Central Coast
SCo: South Coast
SCoR: South Coast Ranges
SCoRO: Outer South Coast Ranges

SCoRI: Inner South Coast Ranges
SnFrB: San Francisco Bay
TR: Transverse Ranges
WTR: Western Transverse Ranges

SnJV: San Joaquin Valley
SLO: San Luis Obispo
SN: Sierra Nevada
SnJt: San Jacinto Mtns

Teh: Tehachapi Mtn Area
CW: Central West
SW: South West

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank DFW Rank	Nesting/Breeding Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
Animals							
1.	Cooper's Hawk* <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	None/none G5S3 Special Animal (Nesting)	March 15 through August 15	Oak woodland, riparian, open fields. Nests in dense trees, esp. coast live oak.	Yes. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in riparian and oak woodland on the property.	Yes	Not Significant With Mitigation
2.	Sharp-shinned Hawk* <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	None/none G5/S3 Special Animal (Nesting)	March 15 through August 15	Riparian, coniferous, and deciduous woodlands near water.	Yes. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in riparian and oak woodland on the property.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
3.	Silvery Legless Lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	None/none G3G4T3T4Q/S3 SSC	May - September	Sandy or loose loamy soils under coastal scrub or oak trees. Soil moisture essential.	Yes. Moderately appropriate loose soils are present in blue oak woodland and the Salinas River floodplain	No	Not Significant
4.	Pallid Bat* <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	None/none G5/S3 SSC	Spring - Summer	Rock crevices, caves, tree hollows, mines, old buildings, and bridges.	Yes. Appropriate roosting areas are found in oak trees on the property.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
5.	Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	None/none G5/S3 SSC	March 1 through August 31	Nests in large, prominent trees in valley and foothill woodland. Requires adjacent food source.	Yes. Appropriate foraging and nesting habitat is present on site.	No	Not Significant
6.	Burrowing Owl* <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	None/none G4/S2 SSC	March 1 through August 31	Burrows in squirrel holes in open habitats with low vegetation.	Yes. Appropriate habitat is present on site. Farming has reduced the amount of appropriate habitat on site.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank DFW Rank	Nesting/ Breeding Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
7.	Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Threatened/none G3/S2S3 None	Rainy Season	Clear water sandstone depression pools, grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt flow depression pools.	Unknown. Vernal pools were not observed on the property during our surveys in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2007. Ephemeral pools were few in 2007, but may be present in better rainfall years.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
8.	Yellow Warbler* <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	None/none G5I3?/S2 SSC	March 1 through August 31	Nests in riparian plant associations, including willows, cottonwoods, etc.	Yes. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in the Salinas River riparian corridor.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
9.	White-tailed Kite* <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	None/none G5/S3 None	March 1 through August 31	Nests in dense tree canopy near open foraging areas	Yes. Potential nesting and foraging habitat is present on site.	No	Not Significant with Mitigation
10.	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher* <i>(Empidonax traillii extimus)</i>	Endangered/ Endangcred G5T1T2/S1 None	March 1 through August 31	Riparian woodlands in Southern California.	Unlikely. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in Salinas River, but no known occurrences in SLO County.	No	Not Significant
11.	Western Pond Turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	None/none G3G4T2T3Q/S2 SSC	April - August	Permanent or semi-permanent streams, ponds, lakes.	Yes. Expected to occur in the Salinas River within the property boundaries. Permanent pond on site is appropriate habitat.	No	Not Significant
12.	Horned Lark* <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	None/none G5T3/S3 SSC	March 31 to August 31	Nests on the ground in open habitats with short grass. More common in the interior.	Unlikely. Adults could occur on property but are unlikely to nest on site due to current land use activities.	No	Not Significant
13.	Loggerhead Shrike* <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	None/none G4/S4 SSC	March 1 through August 31	Open areas with appropriate perches, near shrubby vegetation for nesting	Yes. Appropriate foraging and nesting habitat is found on site.	Yes	Not Significant With Mitigation

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank DFW Rank	Nesting/Breeding Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
14.	California Linderella[^] <i>Linderella occidentalis</i>	None/none G2G3/S2S3 None	Rainy season	Seasonal pools in unplowed grasslands with alluvial soils.	No. Vernal pools were not observed on the property during our surveys in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2007.	No	Not Significant
15.	Monterey Dusky-footed Woodrat <i>Neotoma macrotis luciana</i>	None/none G5T3/S3? SSC	n/a	Variety of habitats with moderate to dense understory vegetation	Unlikely. Appropriate habitat is present in the Salinas River.	No	Not Significant
16.	Steelhead - South/Central California Coast ESU* <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	Threatened/none G5T2Q/S2 None	February - April	Fed listing refers to runs in coastal basins from Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	Yes. Steelhead are known to occur in the Salinas River to the vicinity of Santa Margarita	No	Not Significant
17.	San Joaquin Pocket Mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus inornatus</i>	None/none G4T2T3/S2S3 None	n/a	Grasslands and blue oak savannahs with friable soil and occasional shrubs. Also chaparral.	No. Farming has removed potential habitat from the property.	No	Not Significant
18.	Salinas Pocket Mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus psammophilus</i>	None/none G4T2/S2? SSC	n/a	Annual grassland and desert shrub in Salinas Valley, with friable soils	No. Farming has removed potential habitat from the property.	No	Not Significant
19.	Atascadero June Beetle <i>Polyphylla nubila</i>	None/none G1/S1 None	n/a	Known only from sand dunes in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo County.	No. Appropriate dune habitat not present on site.	No	Not Significant
20.	California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytoni</i>	Threatened/none G4T2T3/S2S3 SSC	January – March	Lowlands and foothills in or near sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Yes. Appropriate habitat is present in the Salinas River. The permanent pond on site is suitable for use by this species.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
21.	Western Spadefoot Toad <i>Spea hammondi</i>	None/none G3/S3? SSC	January – August	Vernal pools in grassland and woodland habitats	Yes. Appropriate breeding habitat may present in ephemeral pools on site.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
22.	Coast Range Newt <i>Taricha torosa torosa</i>	None/none G5T4/S4 SSC	December - May	Slow moving streams, ponds, and lakes with surrounding evergreen/oak forests along coast.	No. Appropriate upland and aquatic habitat not present on site.	No	Not Significant

	Common and Scientific Names	Fed/State Status Global/State Rank DFW Rank	Nesting/ Breeding Period	Habitat Preference	Potential Habitat?	Observed on Site?	Effect of Proposed Activity
23.	American Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	None/none G5/S4 SSC	February – May	Needs friable soils in open ground with abundant food source such as California ground squirrels.	Yes. Appropriate habitat is present in annual grasslands and farmland on site.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation
24.	Two-striped Garter Snake* <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	None/none G2G3/S2 SSC	Spring	Coastal California from Salinas to Baja, sea level to 7000', aquatic, in or near permanent water, streams with rocky beds and riparian growth	Yes. Appropriate habitat is present in the Salinas River for this species. No records in the vicinity.	No	Not Significant
25.	Lompoc Grasshopper <i>Trimerotropis occulens</i>	None/none G1G2/S1S2 None	n/a	Unknown. Known only from Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties	Unlikely. Thought to be extirpated from the area. Only source of info is a 1909 collection.	No	Not Significant
26.	Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Endangered/ Endangered G5T2/S2 None	March 1 through August 31	Summer resident of S. Calif., in low riparian in vicinity of water, or dry riverbed. Nests in willow, mesquite, Baccharis, often on edges of shrubs or on twigs in pathways.	Yes. Moderately appropriate nesting habitat is present in the Salinas River riparian habitat.	No	Not Significant
27.	San Joaquin Kit Fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	Endangered/ Threatened G4T2T3/S2S3 None	December – July	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Needs loose textured sandy soil and prey base.	Yes. Appropriate denning and foraging habitat is present on site.	No	Not Significant With Mitigation

	Common Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank	Potential Habitat?	Effect of Proposed Activity
Sensitive Natural Communities				
1.	Freshwater Vernal Pool*	No federal or state status. Habitat of local concern.	No. Vernal pools are not present on the property.	Not Significant
2.	Valley Oak Woodland	Nons/none G3/S2.1	No. Valley oak trees occur on site but do not form an oak woodland habitat.	Not Significant

3.6.4 Special status plants that could or do occur on the property

This section provides an explanation of the potential for occurrence of eight special status plant species thought to be potentially compatible with conditions on the property. We discuss each species and describe habitat, range restrictions, known occurrences, and survey results for the property.

- A. **Douglas' Fiddleneck** (*Amsinckia douglasiana*) is a CRPR 4.2 species known from unstable shaly sedimentary slopes. Moderately appropriate habitat is present on the embankment between River Road and the upper terrace. This species was not found during many years of site work and is not expected to occur in project areas.
- B. **Dwarf Calycadenia** (*Calycadenia villosa*) is a CRPR 1B.1 species. The species is known from dry, rocky hills and gravelly outwashes in Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Fresno and Kern Counties. The CNPS considers this species to be seriously endangered. Occurrences in the CNDDDB for San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties include the vicinity of Nacimiento and San Antonio Lakes, north to Jolon, with scattered occurrences in Parkfield to the east and in La Panza District, east of Santa Margarita. The closest reported occurrence to the project site is approximately seven miles northwest, near Chimney Rock in the Adelaida quadrangle (CNDDDB #2). Moderately appropriate habitat is present for this species on the steep bluff at the edge of North River Road. Dwarf calycadenia was not identified on the property during focused surveys in April and May 2007.
- C. **Obispo Indian paintbrush** (*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *obispoensis*) is a CRPR 1B.2 subspecies known only from San Luis Obispo County. It is an annual wildflower that typically occurs in coastal grasslands in sandy or clay soils. Inland occurrences of this subspecies have been reported to the CNDDDB in 2002, 2003, and 2005 (CNDDDB #22, 23, 36, 37, and 42). The closest reported occurrence to the River Oaks II property is from annual grassland at the intersection of Airport Road and Dry Creek Road, approximately two miles east (CNDDDB #42). Moderately appropriate habitat is present in grassland areas on the bluff west of the River Oaks Hot Spring and Spa. Obispo Indian paintbrush was not identified on the property during focused surveys in March and April 2007.
- D. **Douglas' spineflower** (*Chorizanthe douglasii*) is a CRPR 4.3 species known from San Benito, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties. It is considered rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough within its known range that the threat of extinction is low at this time. This spineflower grows in gravelly or sandy substrates in the Santa Margarita area (Hoover #11352, Crampton #6978, etc.), Adelaida (Rose #36265), Nacimiento River (Hardham #4396), Bee Rock (Bacigalupi #7434), and other areas of San Luis Obispo County. Moderately appropriate habitat is present for this species on the steep bluff at the edge of North River Road, and along a road-cut near the northern property line. Douglas' spineflower was not identified on the property during focused surveys in April and May 2007.

- E. Elegant wild buckwheat** (*Eriogonum elongatum*) is a CRPR 4.3 species known from sand and gravelly soils, often in washes. Moderately appropriate habitat is present in the Salinas River floodplain in sandy and gravelly secondary channels and on low terraces. This species was not observed during many years of site work and is not expected to occur in project areas.
- F. Yellow-flowered Eriastrum** (*Eriastrum luteum*) is a CRPR List 1B.2 species known only from Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. It grows on drying slopes less than 1000 meters in elevation, usually on decomposed granite. Locality records indicate this species occurs locally from southeast San Luis Obispo County (Santa Margarita, Creston) to western Monterey County (Jolon, Pleyto). The closest reported occurrence is from a 1937 collection two miles east of Lime Mountain, just over 15 miles west of the River Oaks II property. Habitat appropriate for this species is generally steep chaparral hillsides. Moderately appropriate habitat is present for this species on the steep bluff at the edge of North River Road, and along a road-cut near the northern property line. Yellow-flowered eriastrum was not identified on the property during focused surveys in April and May 2007.
- G. Santa Lucia dwarf rush** (*Juncus luciensis*) is a CRPR List 1B.2 species known from vernal pools, ephemeral wetlands, and other wet habitats. In the Paso Robles region, it is known from an occurrence 5.1 miles southeast of the Study Area (CNDDDB #8). It could occur around the existing man-made pond where other wetland vegetation was documented, though it has not been found there during numerous years of survey.
- H. Large-flowered Nemacladus** (*Nemacladus secundiflorus* var. *secundiflorus*) is a CRPR 4.3 species known from dry gravelly slopes. The slope between River Road and the upper terrace is moderately appropriate. This species has not been seen on the hillside during numerous years of survey and is not expected to occur there.

3.6.5 Special status animals that could occur on the property

This section provides an explanation of the potential for occurrence of nineteen special status animal species thought to be compatible with conditions in the project areas. We discuss each species and describe habitat, range restrictions, known occurrences, and survey results for the property.

- A. Silvery legless lizard** (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) is a California Species of Special Concern. This burrowing reptile requires loose, friable soil with adequate moisture. Legless lizards are reported approximately 4.7 miles northwest of the Study Area (CNDDDB #85), and could occur under leaf litter in blue oak woodland within the Study Area.
- B. Cooper's hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a California Special Animal that frequents oak and riparian woodland habitats. It is a regular fall and winter migrant that nests regularly but in low numbers in San Luis Obispo County. Its secretive nature makes locating nests difficult, and it is no doubt under-reported. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in the riparian forest in the

Salinas River. An occupied Cooper's hawk nest was observed on the property in the Salinas River in 1999 (Althouse and Meade, Inc., 2001). Cooper's hawks were not observed to be nesting on the property in 2007 or 2013, but could occur in the future.

- C. **Sharp-shinned hawk** (*Accipiter striatus*) is a California Species of Special Concern that frequents open oak and riparian woodland habitats. It is a regular fall and winter migrant that rarely nests in San Luis Obispo County. Sharp-shinned hawks will forage in habitats on the property, but are not expected to nest on site.
- D. **Pallid bat** (*Antrozous pallidus*) is a California Species of Special Concern. This is a large, long-eared bat occurring throughout the state from deserts to moist forests. *Antrozous pallidus* is primarily a crevice roosting species and selects roosts where they can retreat from view. They frequently occur in oak woodlands where they roost in tree cavities. These roosts are generally day or night roosts for one or a few bats. Attics may be used as roosts. Communal wintering or maternity colonies are more common in rock crevices and caves. Pallid bat could occur in oak tree cavities on the subject property. Focused surveys for bats were not conducted as part of this study, and are not necessary.
- E. **Golden eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is a California Species of Special Concern with no state or federal status. Golden eagles are a fully protected species under federal and state law. They require large trees for nesting and open hunting grounds with abundant prey. The closest reported nest site to the property is along Huerhuero Creek, approximately 1.5 miles east. Appropriate hunting and nesting habitat is present on site. California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) are abundant on site. Activities associated with current land uses on the property outside of the Salinas River may discourage golden eagles from nesting in large oak trees on site. Mature cottonwoods and oaks in the Salinas River continue to be appropriate nesting sites. Golden eagles were not nesting on the River Oaks II in 2007 through 2013, although adults and second year juvenile eagles have been observed foraging on River Oaks II croplands.
- F. **Burrowing owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) is a California Species of Special Concern owl that nests in abandoned holes in the ground, most notably burrows of the California ground squirrel. It is a common breeding resident in local areas of the interior, from Bitterwater Valley to the Carizzo Plains, and on Camp Roberts. Less frequent reports are from coastal grasslands. Wintering burrowing owls are occasionally observed in the Paso Robles region and are to be expected elsewhere. Most of the prime habitat for burrowing owl on the property is currently dry farmed. Ground squirrel burrows are abundant in some areas of the site, but in general the habitat is too disturbed to be used by burrowing owl. No signs of burrowing owls were found on the property during our site surveys in 2007 or 2013.

- G. Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)** is a federally listed threatened species known from the vicinity of the Study Area. Occurrence #287 in the CNDDDB is from a series of vernal pools approximately 2.3 miles east of the subject property, just south of Highway 46 East. Occurrence #380 is from Blacks Hatchery and Turkey Farm, also 2.3 miles east of the property, but on the north side of Highway 46 East. Vernal pools were not identified on the property. No pools were found to contain water during the winter of 2006-2007. In December 2007, a dry-season protocol survey was conducted by Helm Biological Consulting (Helm 2008), followed by wet-season surveys between January and April 2008 conducted by Dave Hacker (Hacker 2008). No vernal pool branchiopods were observed in ephemeral depressions during protocol surveys.
- H. Yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*)** is a California Species of Special Concern with a restricted breeding range in central and southern California. The status of this subspecies of yellow warbler is described by the CNDDDB as “restricted range, rare”. They frequent riparian habitats, nesting in sycamores, cottonwoods, willows, and other riparian trees. There are no breeding records in the CNDDDB for yellow warbler in SLO County; however yellow warbler is a regular spring and fall migrant that does breed in the County. The riparian habitat in the Salinas River is suitable for nesting yellow warblers. This species was not observed on or near the property during our site surveys in 2007 and 2013.
- I. White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)** is a California Species of Special Concern that nests in dense tree canopy near open areas throughout San Luis Obispo County. Nesting in San Luis Obispo County is primarily in mature coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*), which do not occur naturally on the property (some small live oaks have been planted). Appropriate foraging habitat is present on site, but nesting would be unlikely due to a lack of appropriate nesting sites.
- J. Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)** is a federally listed endangered species known to nest in riparian woodlands of Southern California. The Salinas River in the vicinity of Paso Robles does contain appropriate habitat for this species, however the location is farther north than any documented nesting records. The Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara County is the closest occurrence of nesting Southwestern willow flycatcher listed in the CNDDDB (approximately 50 miles distant). It is possible that this species may move through the property in the Salinas River during migration, but it is very unlikely that nesting would occur on site.
- K. Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)** is a California Species of Special Concern that inhabits ponds and slow moving streams with adequate pools. During the dry season pond turtles will move overland and take refuge in woodland habitats. Perennial water in the Salinas River from the wastewater treatment facility provides very good habitat for pond turtles. Pond turtles were not observed, but are expected to occur in the Salinas River portion of the property. The perennial pond in the Study Area also provides good habitat

for pond turtles. Pond turtles were observed in the perennial pond in 1999, but were not observed in 2007 or 2013.

- L. **Loggerhead shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a California Species of Special Concern. It requires open areas with appropriate perches for hunting, and shrubby trees or bushes for nesting. One shrike was observed on the property in April 2007; its breeding condition was unknown. Appropriate nesting habitat is present on the property for loggerhead shrikes.
- M. **Monterey Dusky-footed Woodrat** (*Neotoma macrotis luciana*) is a California Species of Special Concern known only from the Santa Lucia Mountains in southeastern Monterey and northwestern San Luis Obispo Counties. The nearest collection record for *N. macrotis luciana* is from the Camp Roberts area, northwest of property. Occurrence numbers 1, 2, and 6 in the CNDDDB are on Camp Roberts military reservation. These records are from 8.0 to 8.3 miles from the site. Small mammal trapping was not conducted within the Study Area. The common dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) could occur in riparian habitat in the Study Area, however the Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is unlikely to occur. If a woodrat nest is located in a construction zone, the nest may be dismantled using hand tools so as to allow any inhabitants to escape into adjacent open space areas. .
- N. **Steelhead - South/Central California ESU** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) is a federally listed threatened species in this area of California. Steelhead are known to occur in coastal streams and rivers in San Luis Obispo County, including the Salinas River to the vicinity of Santa Margarita. The Salinas River is considered to be critical spawning habitat for steelhead. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the agency responsible for review for this federally listed species. The nexus for NMFS review is the permit process with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Steelhead were not observed on site during our surveys in 2007 or 2013.
- O. **California red-legged frog** (*Rana draytonii*) is a federally listed threatened species with occurrences documented throughout San Luis Obispo County. It generally requires seasonal pools or streams that hold water until mid to late summer for successful breeding. Bullfrogs and introduced fish can be detrimental to its breeding success, and have severely reduced many populations in larger watercourses and perennial ponds. Appropriate habitat for red-legged frog (CRLF) is present in the Salinas River and in the perennial pond in the center of the property.

The perennial pond was surveyed for CRLF in August 1999 by Dan Meade and Susan Christopher. The survey consisted of one day-time and one night-time survey. CRLF were not found to be present in the pond. More than 40 bullfrogs were counted during the survey, including four metamorphosing tadpoles. Three adult bullfrogs and numerous bullfrog tadpoles were observed in the pond in 2007 during daytime surveys. Due to the presence of bullfrogs, introduced fish, and a lack of emergent vegetation, the perennial pond is not expected to harbor a breeding population of CRLF. Some portions of the Salinas River are also appropriate habitat for CRLF. The closest

reported occurrence to the River Oaks II is from the confluence of Paso Robles Creek and the Salinas River, 8.6 miles south (CNDDDB #617). The lack of a closer source population limits the chance that CRLF will move into habitats on the property in the future. CRLF was not observed during our surveys of the property in 2007, and are very unlikely to occur. A protocol level survey was not conducted as part of this study.

- P. Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*)** is a California Species of Special Concern known from ephemeral pools in open grassland habitats across the interior region of San Luis Obispo County. Spadefoot toads remain underground for most of the year, emerging to breed in seasonal wetland pools during the rainy season. As opportunistic breeders, they occasionally utilize stockpools, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams. Development of the larvae from egg to metamorphosis can occur in three weeks or less, depending upon water temperature. In ponds and reservoirs, where bottom temperatures are cooler, tadpoles remain in larval form longer, often becoming very large.

Spadefoot toad tadpoles were observed in roadside puddles on Buena Vista Drive in 2005 and 2006 (Dart, pers. obs.), approximately 1.1 and 2.1 miles northeast of the River Oaks II property. The only potential breeding habitat on the property in 2007 was the perennial pond. Above-average rainfall years could provide spadefoot toads with additional breeding sites on the property that had not filled during the 2007 below-average rainfall season. We expect spadefoot toads to occur on or in the vicinity of the property. However, long-term farming may have eliminated spadefoot toads from most upland areas on the property.

- Q. American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)** is a California Species of Special Concern known from open grassland habitats throughout San Luis Obispo County and elsewhere in California. Appropriate habitat for badgers is found on the property, although current farming practices have reduced the habitat quality substantially. No signs of badgers were observed on site during our surveys in 2007 or in 2013.

- R. Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)** is an endangered species under both the state and federal endangered species acts. This vireo nests in low riparian vegetation in Southern California, preferring to place its nest on low branches of willows (*Salix* spp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and mesquite bushes (*Prosopis* spp.) that extend into pathways. Nesting least Bell's vireos were found in the Salinas River in the Bradley quadrangle of Monterey County in 1983 (CNDDDB #120). This occurrence is approximately twenty miles downstream from the subject property. Moderately appropriate habitat is present in the Salinas River riparian habitat. Least Bell's vireo was not observed on the property during our biological surveys.

- S. San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)** is a federally listed endangered species and a state listed threatened species. Kit fox are known from the Carrizo Plains and Camp Roberts, with transient individuals known to move between the two populations. Huerfano Creek is considered to be a movement corridor for kit fox. The open farmland and grasslands on the

property provide appropriate seasonal habitat for San Joaquin kit fox. Development on the property will permanently remove habitat for San Joaquin kit fox. The property is located within the three to one mitigation ratio area (as per the San Luis Obispo County Standard Kit Fox Mitigation Ratios map, which is found at: <http://slocountymaps.calpoly.edu/kitfox.htm>).

3.6.6 Special status species not expected to occur on the property

The remaining 28 special status species known to occur in the Adelaida, Paso Robles, Estrella, York Mountain, Templeton, and Creston quadrangles are not expected to occur in the Study Area due to the absence of required soil type, lack of appropriate habitat, or because the project site is substantially outside the known range of the species.

3.6.7 Sensitive natural communities and special aquatic sites

No habitats listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as sensitive natural communities occur in the Study Area. Wetland habitat is defined as a special aquatic site under USACE definitions. Wetlands are present on the property, but have not been formally delineated. Federal jurisdictional wetlands are defined in the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers wetland determination methods as an area five feet in diameter dominated by wetland plants (obligate or facultative wetland species), which has hydrologic conditions that allow water to saturate the soil for several weeks per year, and contains hydric soils.

The State of California uses a broader definition of wetlands. Like the USACE definition, the definition of a wetland adopted by the State (Cowardin, et al., 1979) incorporates the three key parameters of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and hydrology:

Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For the purpose of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated or covered with shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year (Cowardin et al. 1979).

The key difference between the federal and state wetland definitions is that for state wetlands, under some circumstances, only one of the three criteria need be met.

4.0 Discussion

4.1 General Discussion of Property Conditions

The River Oaks II Study Area is primarily used as an agricultural operation consisting of dryland grain crops. The other major land use is a hot spring and spa facility that hosts outdoor events. Cultivated oat and barley fields cover approximately 48± acres of the Study Area. The Salinas River riparian habitat is the most valuable resource on the property for wildlife and special status species. Blue oak woodlands on site are restricted

in range by the farming operations. Cooper's hawk was nesting on the property in 1999, in the riparian habitat of the Salinas River. Special status species have not been documented on the property outside the Salinas River habitat.

4.2 Regulatory Framework

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the lead agency (in this case, the City of Paso Robles) to determine potential environmental effects of the project. The lead agency must also identify other involved agencies that become responsible or trustee agencies.

All of the plants constituting CNPS CRPR 1B meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 of the California Native Plant Protection Act (CNPPA) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing. It is mandatory that they be fully considered during preparation of environmental documents relating to CEQA (CEQA section 15065).

Rare plants protected under the CNPPA must be fully considered under CEQA (CEQA sections 15380, 15386). Proposed impacts that affect more than 10 percent of a local breeding population generally require mitigation at a minimum 2:1 ratio.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recognizes that CRPR 1A, 1B, and 2 of the CNPS Inventory consist of plants that may qualify for listing, and recommends they be addressed in CEQA projects.

Rare plants and animals protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) are protected. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is the agency that regulates activities affecting federally listed species.

Nesting birds are protected from disturbance by The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, (as regulated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) and by sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800 of the California Department of Fish and Game code.

The Salinas River and ephemeral tributaries on the property may be under the permitting jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (section 404), the California Department of Fish and Game (code 1603), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (section 401). Areas affected could include four locations: the Salinas River riparian zone, the drainage containing the pond, a drainage swale west of the pond that leaves the property to the north, and a drainage along the northern property boundary. The applicant should demonstrate to the lead agency that all applicable permits have been obtained for work affecting drainages and wetlands. All work that affects the bed or banks of the drainages, including culverts and bridges, is likely to require USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW authorizations.

5.0 Potential Impacts

Construction of the proposed project could affect special status animal species, blue oak woodlands and individual oak trees, wetlands, annual grasslands, and common wildlife

species. The project is in the conceptual phase. Maps used in our evaluation of potential impacts are included in Appendix A.

Sections 5.1 through 5.5 address potential impacts to biological resources from construction of the proposed project. We include in our analysis impacts to both common and special status species, as well as to habitats that are not sensitive. This consideration contributes to understanding cumulative impacts to the environment that may result from the loss of common species and habitat.

5.1 Potential Habitat Impacts

5.1.1 Agrestal (dryland grain crop)

The proposed project would convert all of the 48± acres of farmland to other uses. Special status species are not expected to occur in the agrestal habitat. Impacts to agrestal habitat do not require mitigation.

The Arbuckle fine sandy loam map unit (100) and the Mocho clay loam map unit (173) are in capability class I irrigated. These soil map units are considered prime farmland. Neither of the areas shown by USDA maps to contain these soil map units was farmed in 2013. Approximately 32± acres of potential prime farmland are present on the property. Because actual soil types in the field may differ from the generalized soil map units, the determination of presence and acreage of prime farmland on site would be made by a qualified soil scientist. Preliminary soil investigations by Althouse and Meade, Inc. (unpublished results) found some areas of map unit 100 that may not qualify as prime farmland.

5.1.2 Annual grassland

Approximately 24 acres of annual grassland habitat would be permanently removed by the proposed project design. Much of the grassland habitat is highly disturbed. Plant species in many areas are indicative of disturbed soils, either from past farming or from construction-related activities. Annual grassland in the Paso Robles region is considered potential habitat for San Joaquin kit fox. The loss of San Joaquin kit fox habitat, if determined to be a significant impact to the kit fox, would require mitigation (see section 6.5.10).

5.1.3 Blue oak woodland

Blue oak woodland habitat on the property would be protected in open space areas. Impacts to the oak woodland habitat are not anticipated. Section 5.2 addresses potential impacts to individual oak trees on the property.

5.1.4 Riparian

Construction of an athletic field in the ruderal area west of North River Road may affect riparian habitat and Salinas River secondary channels which are in close proximity. Additionally, there are utility markers indicating below ground utilities throughout the area. Currently, there are no project plans for this area.

5.1.5 Wetland

Two areas of wetland were identified on the property: the Salinas River flow path, and the large landscape/agricultural pond. The extent of jurisdictional wetlands on the property has been determined through a formal wetland delineation study conducted in

2009. Impacts to jurisdictional wetlands, if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, would require mitigation (see section 6.1.5).

As part of the proposed project a substantial pond and drainage basin would be built in the north east corner of the property. This pond and basin would create additional aquatic habitat on the property; a potential beneficial impact to biological resources. In recent years, the RWQCB has indicated that stormwater basins will not be accepted for wetland mitigation.

5.1.6 Ruderal

Most of the mapped ruderal habitat areas lie within proposed open space areas. Some small areas of ruderal habitat may be impacted during construction. Impacts to ruderal habitat do not require mitigation.

5.1.7 Anthropogenic

Approximately 23 acres of anthropogenic habitat were mapped on the property. Impacts to anthropogenic habitat do not require mitigation.

5.2 Potential Oak Tree Impacts

The City of Paso Robles requires mitigation for removal of oak trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 6 inches or greater. Diameter at breast (dbh) is measured at 4.5 feet from the ground or, if the trunk is split below 4 feet, at the narrowest point below the split. Impacts include any ground disturbance within the critical root zone (CRZ), or any trimming of branches 4 inches in diameter or greater. The critical root zone (CRZ), as defined by the City of Paso Robles, is an area of root space that is within a circle circumscribed around the trunk of a tree using a radius of 1 foot per inch dbh, e.g., a 20-inch diameter tree has a CRZ with a radius of 20 feet as measured from the center of the tree (City of El Paso de Robles - Ordinance No. 835 N.S). This measurement often extends beyond the actual drip-line of the tree.

The applicant intends to develop the property with no impacts to native oak trees on the property.

5.3 Potential Impacts to Common Wildlife

5.3.1 Nesting habitat

Impacts to or take of nesting birds could occur if grading or tree removal/trimming is conducted during nesting season (March 1 through August 31). Take of common nesting birds is prohibited by federal and state code. Impacts to or take of common nesting birds can be avoided (see section 6.3.1).

5.3.2 Reduction of wildlife movement corridors

Wildlife movement through the property is primarily restricted to the Salinas River corridor. The riparian habitat provides cover and food sources for a variety of wildlife, and animals can move long distances with few impediments. The steep bluff at the edge of North River Road limits terrestrial animal movement up to the terrace, focusing movements into the ephemeral drainages. Mule deer, bobcat, coyote, and foxes are expected to occur in the Salinas River habitat, and may occasionally forage on the property. Development immediately south, north and east of the property reduces opportunities for wildlife to use the property as a corridor.

5.3.3 *Displacement and/or take*

Common wildlife species currently living in the project site or using the site as transients would be permanently displaced from a portion of the property. Take of common species may occur.

5.4 **Potential Impacts to Special Status Plant Species**

Focused floristic surveys conducted on the property in 2007 did not locate any special status plant species. We do not expect special status plants to occur on the property in the future. The proposed project would not result in impacts to special status plants. Site visits in 2013 determined that site conditions have not changed substantially, and the potential for rare plants to occur is unchanged from conditions reported in 2007.

5.5 **Potential Impacts to Special Status Animal Species**

5.5.1 *Special status birds*

Special status birds could potentially occur on the property (see section 3.6). Disturbance and/or take could occur if any of these species nest in proposed project areas. Impacts to or take of special status bird species can be avoided (see section 6.5.1).

5.5.2 *Silvery legless lizard*

Appropriate habitat for the silvery legless lizard is found beneath oak trees in blue oak woodland habitat. Blue oak woodland habitat on the property would be protected in open space areas, therefore impacts to silvery legless lizard are not anticipated.

5.5.3 *Pallid bat*

The proposed project is not expected to impact native oak trees on the property that could potentially harbor roosting pallid bats or other bat species. Any buildings that will be removed should be inspected for bats prior to demolition.

5.5.4 *Vernal pool fairy shrimp*

Ephemeral depressions in the Study Area were surveyed during both dry and wet-seasons. Protocol level surveys did not detect federally-listed branchiopods.

5.5.5 *Western pond turtle*

Western pond turtles are known to occur in the Salinas River in the Paso Robles area. Pond turtles were observed in the perennial pond on the property in 1999. Because pond turtles will move overland between water sources, project activities near the pond and the Salinas River have the potential to result in take. The potential for take of western pond turtle, if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.5).

5.5.6 *Western spadefoot toad*

Western spadefoot toad is known to breed in roadside ephemeral pools along Buena Vista Drive. The closest location is approximately 1.1 miles from the Study Area. Spadefoot toads were not found on site in 2007 or 2013. Aestivating spadefoot toads could potentially be present in rodent burrows in upland habitat in the Study Area. Breeding could occur in the perennial pond or other ephemeral pools on site. Grading and other project construction activities could result in take of spadefoot toads, if present. The project would result in a net loss of spadefoot toad habitat. The potential for take of

Western spadefoot toad, if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.6).

5.5.7 Steelhead - South/Central California ESU

Steelhead could potentially be present seasonally in the Salinas River. Ephemeral drainages on the property are tributaries to the Salinas River. Run-off from the project site into the ephemeral drainages could impair water quality in the river. The potential for direct impacts to occur to steelhead and their habitat is dependent upon the nature of the recreation activity proposed on the floodplain (see land use map in Appendix A). The potential for take, if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.7).

5.5.8 California red-legged frog

California red-legged frog could potentially be present in the Salinas River and the perennial pond. Appropriate habitat is present. CRLF has not been identified on the property or within five miles of the site. There is no known CRLF source population in the vicinity that would allow colonization of habitats on the property.

Project activities that affect the perennial pond or riparian habitat in the Salinas River could degrade potential CRLF habitat. Potential impacts to CRLF habitat, if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.8).

5.5.9 American badger

The property is within the known range of the American badger. Annual grassland habitat usable by badgers occurs on the property and could be removed by development and subsequent use of the land. Suitable prey items are present to support resident or transient badgers. Indirect impacts to badgers include the loss of foraging and denning habitat. Direct impacts could occur if a badger takes up residence on the site. The loss of grassland habitat is not a significant impact, although the cumulative loss of habitat in the Paso Robles region has negatively affected badger populations in the area. Disturbance of denning badgers, if present, and if determined to be significant in the CEQA document, can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.9).

5.5.10 San Joaquin kit fox

The property is within the known range of San Joaquin kit fox. Development on the property would result in a loss of kit fox habitat. Construction activities and subsequent use could discourage kit fox from utilizing remaining habitat on site. If walls or wooden fences are built around the property boundaries, the entire property could be removed from potential use by kit fox. Precise acreages cannot be calculated without a finalized project and grading plan; however loss of any designated San Joaquin kit fox habitat may be significant under CEQA. If determined to be significant in the CEQA document, impacts can be reduced to a less than significant level (see section 6.5.10).

6.0 Recommendations to Address Project Effects

If the CEQA document finds that the effects of the project are significant under CEQA, we recommend the following biological resource (BR) mitigation measures to address

such impacts. With these recommended measures, potential impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

6.1 Habitat Mitigations

Proposed changes to anthropogenic, ruderal, and agrestal habitats do not require mitigation.

6.1.1 Agrestal

Proposed changes to agrestal habitat do not require mitigation.

6.1.2 Annual grassland

By itself, the loss of approximately 24 acres of annual grassland habitat is not typically a significant impact; therefore no mitigation is recommended for the loss of this resource. However, the loss of grassland could potentially reduce the habitat of the San Joaquin kit fox. Loss or permanent degradation of San Joaquin kit fox habitat on the property is addressed in section 6.5.10.

6.1.3 Blue oak woodland

All of the blue oak woodland habitat on the property would be protected in open space areas; therefore no mitigation is recommended.

6.1.4 Riparian

The property includes approximately 11 acres of riparian habitat in the Salinas River. The project will not remove riparian habitat. Setback from riparian vegetation is typically 50 feet as per CDFW recommendations. If the project encroaches on riparian habitat, additional impact and mitigation analysis must be considered. Alteration of natural flood plains must be consistent with FEMA guidelines.

6.1.5 Wetland

If project activities are proposed that may result in fill of wetland areas, the formal wetland delineation should be submitted to the USACE to verify extent of federal jurisdiction under Clean Water Act section 404. Wetlands are known to be present in the Salinas River and the perennial pond.

BR-1. If impacts to wetlands would occur as a result of proposed project activities, a mitigation, monitoring, and reporting plan should be prepared and approved by the City and other jurisdictional agencies, as appropriate (i.e., California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board). Wetland mitigation will increase the areal extent of wetland habitat on site at a two-to-one ratio (created wetland area to impacted wetland area), or other ratio determined by the permitting agency. Mitigation implementation and success will be monitored for a minimum of three years, depending on the jurisdictional agencies' requirements.

6.2 Oak Tree Mitigations

The proposed project is not expected to impact oak trees on the property. If future changes to the project result in impacts to or removal of oak trees, the following mitigation measures may be appropriate to address such effects. require impacts to or

removal of native oak trees, the following mitigation recommendations should be implemented.

- BR-2.** Tree canopies and trunks within 50 feet of proposed disturbance zones should be mapped and numbered by a certified arborist or qualified biologist and a licensed land surveyor. Data for each tree should include date, species, number of stems, diameter at breast height (dbh) of each stem, critical root zone (CRZ) diameter, canopy diameter, tree height, health, habitat notes, and nests observed.
- BR-3.** An oak tree protection plan should be prepared and approved by the City of Paso Robles.
- BR-4.** Impacts to the oak canopy or critical root zone (CRZ) should be avoided where practicable. Impacts include pruning, any ground disturbance within the dripline or CRZ of the tree (whichever distance is greater), and trunk damage.
- BR-5.** Impacts to oak trees should be assessed by a licensed arborist. Mitigations for impacted trees should comply with the City of Paso Robles tree ordinance.
- BR-6.** Replacement oaks for removed trees must be equivalent to 25% of the diameter of the removed tree(s). For example, the replacement requirement for removal of two trees of 15 inches dbh (30 total diameter inches), would be 7.5 inches (30" removed x 0.25 replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting five 1.5 inch trees, or three 2.5 inch trees, or any other combination totaling 7.5 inches. A minimum of two 24 inch box, 1.5 inch trees should be required for each oak tree removed.
- BR-7.** Replacement trees should be seasonally maintained (browse protection, weed reduction and irrigation, as needed) and monitored annually for at least three years. Replacement trees should be of local origin, and of the same species as was impacted or removed.

6.3 Common Wildlife Mitigations

6.3.1 Nesting habitat

Migratory non-game native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory non-game birds (as listed under the Federal MBTA).

- BR-8.** **Within one week of ground disturbance or tree removal/trimming activities,** if work occurs between March 15 and August 15, nesting bird surveys should be conducted. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, grading and construction activities that affect trees and grasslands should not be conducted during the breeding season from March 1 to August 31. If construction activities must be conducted during this period, nesting bird surveys should take place within one week of habitat disturbance. If surveys do not locate nesting birds, construction activities may be conducted. If nesting birds are located, no construction activities should occur within 100 feet of nests until chicks are fledged. Construction activities should observe a 300-foot buffer for occupied raptor

nests. A 500-foot buffer should be observed from occupied nests of all special status species. A pre-construction survey report should be submitted to the lead agency immediately upon completion of the survey. The report should detail appropriate fencing or flagging of the buffer zone and make recommendations on additional monitoring requirements.

6.3.2 *Reduction of wildlife movement corridors*

Impacts to significant wildlife movement corridors are not anticipated from the proposed project; therefore no mitigation is recommended.

6.3.3 *Displacement and/or take*

Wildlife expected to occur on the property includes common species such as gray fox, mule deer, coyote, bobcat, striped skunk, and several species of rodents. Mitigations for impacts to common wildlife species are usually not required.

6.4 **Mitigations for Special Status Plant Species**

Special status plants were not found and are not expected to occur in the Study Area; therefore no mitigation is recommended.

6.5 **Mitigations for Special Status Animal Species**

6.5.1 *Special status birds*

If construction activities are conducted during the nesting season, from March 15 through August 15, pre-construction nesting bird surveys should be conducted (see BR-8). If occupied nests of special status birds (e.g. Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, burrowing owl, yellow warbler, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, and least Bell's vireo) are present, the following additional mitigation recommendations should be implemented:

BR-9. All occupied nests of special status bird species should be mapped using GPS or survey equipment. The mapped locations should be placed on a copy of the grading plans with a 500-foot buffer indicated. Work should not be allowed within the 500 foot buffer while the nest is in use. The buffer zone should be delineated on the ground with orange construction fencing where it overlaps work areas.

BR-10. Occupied nests of special status bird species that are within 500 feet of project work areas should be monitored bi-monthly through the nesting season to document nest success and check for project compliance with buffer zones. Once nests are deemed inactive and/or chicks have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest, work can commence.

6.5.2 *Silvery legless lizard*

The project is not expected to have an impact on silvery legless lizard because blue oak woodland habitat on the property would be protected in open space areas, therefore no mitigation is required.

6.5.3 *Pallid bat*

The project is not expected to have an impact on potential pallid bat roost sites on the property; therefore no mitigation is required.

6.5.4 Vernal pool fairy shrimp

If vernal pool fairy shrimp are found on the property in the future, mitigations may be required.

6.5.5 Western pond turtle

If work is proposed within 50 feet of the Salinas River or the perennial pond, the following mitigation measure should be implemented to reduce the potential for take.

BR-11. Grubbing, grading, and other ground disturbance activities conducted within 50 feet of the Salinas River or the perennial pond should be monitored by a qualified biologist. If pond turtles are found in the project areas, they should be moved to an appropriate safe location on site. The biological monitor must have appropriate permits for handling pond turtles.

6.5.6 Western spadefoot toad

Spadefoot toads breed in ephemeral pools in the Paso Robles region. They are known to occur in the vicinity of the subject property. Surveys of the property conducted during the 2006-2007 rainfall year were not definitive due to the extreme below normal rainfall, and ephemeral pools did not adequately fill. Therefore, additional surveys for spadefoot toad in potential ephemeral pool locations should be conducted prior to project construction.

presence of graded permit
BR-12. Prior to development, a survey of any ephemeral pools should be conducted within three weeks of saturating winter rainfall to determine the presence or absence of spadefoot toad on the property. If spadefoot toad is found, a mitigation plan, which may include avoidance, capture, and relocation, will be developed by a qualified biologist to reduce project effects on this species to a less than significant level.

6.5.7 Steelhead - South/Central California ESU

Specific project details were not available regarding the type of recreation proposed for the Salinas River riparian habitat. The following mitigation measures are provided as guidelines to protect steelhead and their habitat.

BR-13. All construction related activities must observe a 100-foot set-back from the Salinas River, as measured from the outer edge of riparian canopy. A minimum 50-foot set-back should be observed from the ephemeral drainages and flood channels, as measured from the outer edge of riparian vegetation.

BR-14. The project should develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) acceptable to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Appropriate erosion control measures should be implemented at all times in areas that could potentially flow into the Salinas River. Erosion control measures should include, but are not limited to, effective placement of silt fence, straw waddles, hydroseed applications, and erosion control fabric. Project planning should strive for temporary and permanent erosion control.

6.5.8 California red-legged frog

If the project requires work to be conducted in the perennial pond or the Salinas River, a protocol level survey for California red-legged frog (USFWS 2005) should be conducted

on the entire property in all potential CRLF habitat. If CRLF are found to be present, consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service must occur. Project-specific avoidance and mitigation measures should be developed in consultation with the Service. If CRLF are not found to be present, work may proceed upon acceptance of the negative finding by the Service.

6.5.9 American badger

American badger could occur in the project areas. The project will result in a net loss of badger habitat. Mitigation is not required for loss of badger habitat. To ensure take of live badgers does not occur, the following measure is recommended:

BR-15. A pre-construction survey should be conducted within thirty days of beginning work on the project to identify if badgers are using the site. The results of the survey should be sent to the project manager, CDFG, and the City of Paso Robles.

If the pre-construction survey finds potential badger dens, they should be inspected to determine whether they are occupied. The survey should cover the entire property, and should examine both old and new dens. If potential badger dens are too long to completely inspect from the entrance, a fiber optic scope should be used to examine the den to the end. Inactive dens may be excavated by hand with a shovel to prevent re-use of dens during construction. If badgers are found in dens on the property between February and July, nursing young may be present. To avoid disturbance and the possibility of direct take of adults and nursing young, and to prevent badgers from becoming trapped in burrows during construction activity, no grading should occur within 100 feet of active badger dens between February and July. Between July 1 and February 1 all potential badger dens should be inspected to determine if badgers are present. During the winter, badgers do not truly hibernate but are inactive and asleep in their dens for several days at a time. Because they can be torpid during the winter, they are vulnerable to disturbances that may collapse their dens before they rouse and emerge. Therefore, surveys should be conducted for badger dens throughout the year. If badgers are found on the property from July 1 through February 1, a qualified biologist may capture badgers and relocate them to an appropriate location off the property.

6.5.10 San Joaquin kit fox

San Joaquin kit fox could occur in the project area. The project will result in a net loss of kit fox habitat. The applicant should follow the City's standard San Joaquin fox mitigation program, in consultation with CDFW, to mitigate for any direct impacts to kit fox to a less than significant level.

As a modification to the City's standard mitigation program, we recommend that kit fox mitigation be partially fulfilled by habitat enhancements for San Joaquin kit fox on the property. These enhancements can include: kit fox friendly fencing, and artificial dens and escape structures in open space areas, drainage basins, and on the golf course, and signage and information to increase public awareness regarding San Joaquin kit fox. Areas of the existing golf course on the project to the south could also be included in this kit fox habitat area.

In consultation with the CDFW, a kit fox mitigation program will be developed that could incorporate onsite measures. The City will work with CDFW to develop an appropriate mitigation strategy to reduce impacts to kit fox, which could potentially include a combination of onsite enhancements, mitigation fees for loss of habitat that is not offset onsite, and/or habitat enhancements offsite.

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8.0 APPENDIX A – Conceptual Plan

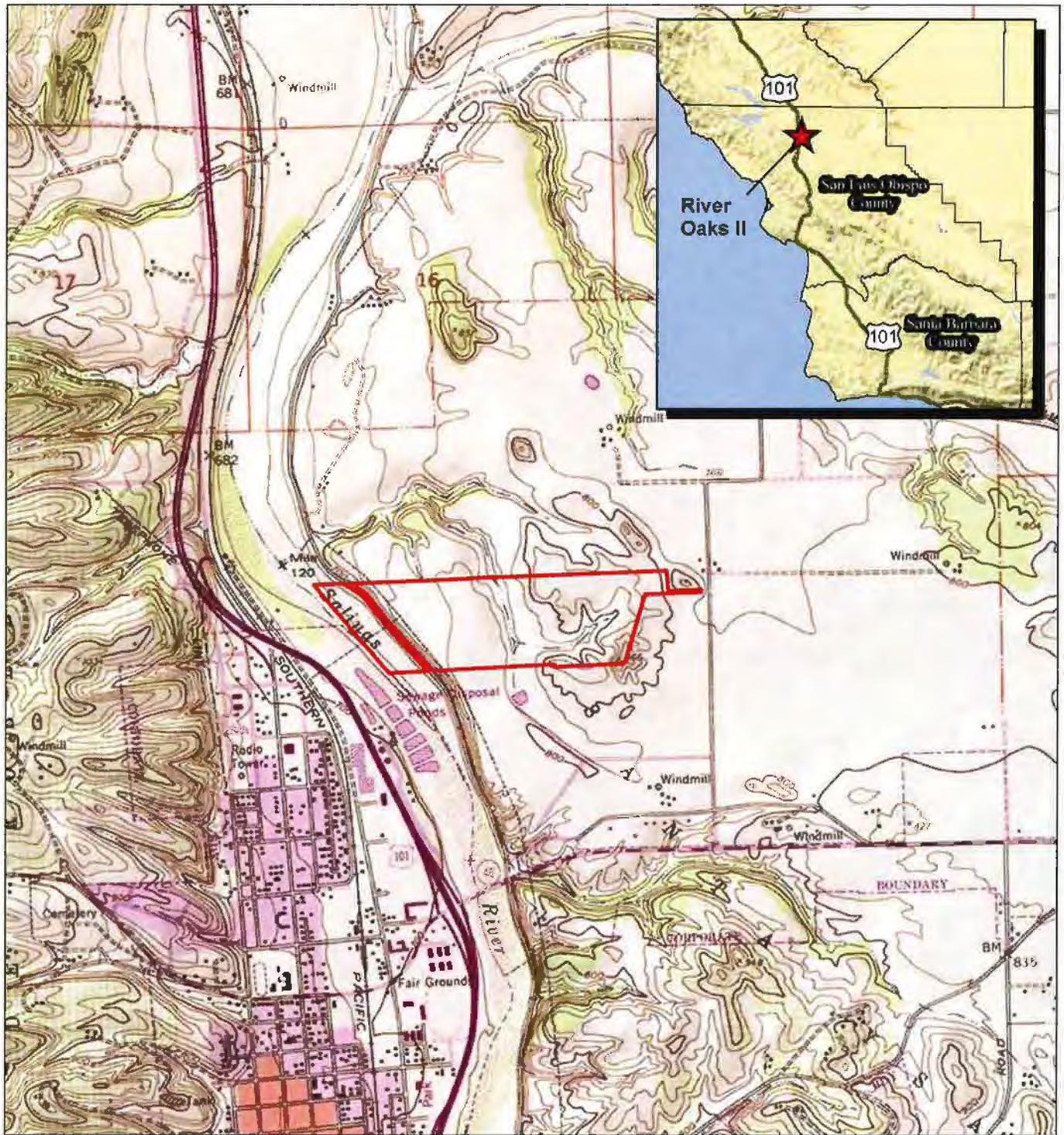
- **River Oaks II Concept Plan – RRM Design Group, February 2013**



9.0 APPENDIX B – Figures

- **Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map**
- **Figure 2. Aerial Photograph**
- **Figure 3. USDA Soils Map**
- **Figure 4. CNDDDB GIS Map**
- **Figure 5. Habitat Map**

Figure 1. USGS Topographic Map



Legend

 River Oaks II Study Area



Figure 2. Aerial Photograph



Legend

 River Oaks II Study Area



0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile



Figure 3. USDA Soils Map



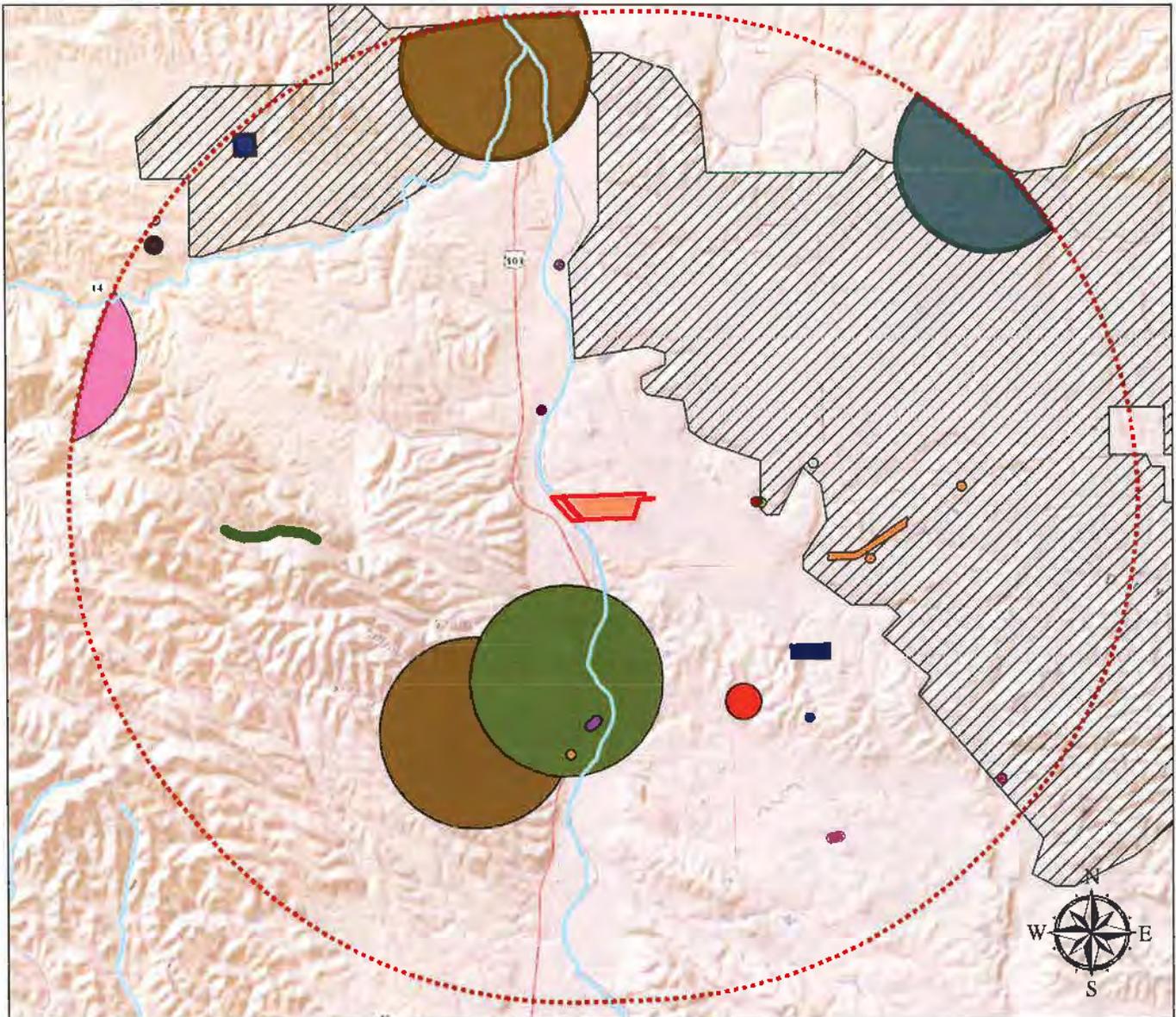
 River Oaks II Study Area

100: Arbuckle Fine Sandy Loam, 0-2 percent slope
 104: Arbuckle-Positas Complex, 30-50 percent slope
 106: Arbuckle-San Ysidro Complex, 2-9 percent slope
 173: Mocho Clay Loam, 0-2 percent slope

177: Nacimiento-Ayar Complex, 9-30 percent slope
 212: Xerofluvents-Riverwash Association



Figure 4. CNDDDB & FWS Critical Habitat Map



Legend

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| River Oaks 2013 Study Area | San Joaquin kit fox | round-leaved filaree |
| Five Mile Radius | San Joaquin pocket mouse | shining navarretia |
| Steelhead Critical Habitat | San Luis Obispo owl's-clover | silvery legless lizard |
| Vernal pool fairy shrimp Critical Habitat | Santa Cruz Mountains pussypaws | vernal pool fairy shrimp |
| Atascadero June beetle | dwarf calycadenia | western pond turtle |
| Jared's pepper-grass | golden eagle | western spadefoot |
| Lemmon's jewel-flower | least Bell's vireo | woodland woollythreads |
| Lompoc grasshopper | oval-leaved snapdragon | |





Habitat Map

River Oaks II

Legend

- River Oaks II, 2013 Study Area
- Agrestal
- Anthropogenic
- Blue Oak Woodland
- California Annual Grassland
- Riparian
- Ruderal
- Wetland
- Jurisdictional Waters (2009)



2012 San Luis Obispo County
 NAPP Aerial Photography
 Map Updated: August 22, 2013, 12:26 PM

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



Aithouse and Meade, Inc.
 1602 Spring Street
 Paso Robles, CA 93446

10.0 APPENDIX C – Photographs



Photo 1. View north of annual grassland habitat (foreground), an ephemeral drainage with blue oak canopy, and agrestal habitat (background) in 2007.



Photo 2. Agrestal habitat condition during surveys in 2013.

