



A Biological Assessment (BA) of the project, prepared by Moore Biological, describes the existing biological resources of land and waters in and adjacent to the project site and how the project would affect those resources, including Waters of the U.S. and wetlands, Federal and State special-status species, and other natural resources. The project would not involve any significant effect on biological resources.

The project includes proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measures that focus on construction scheduling and isolating the in-water work areas: With implementation of these measures, which are a part of the project, the project would have minimal and less than significant impacts to special-status plant, wildlife, and fish species.

Detailed discussion of the project's potential biological effects and the effectiveness of proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measures is documented in the project BA. A full copy of the BA has been provided to all agencies with permit jurisdiction. As documented in the BA, there would be no long-term adverse impacts to the aquatic habitats and potentially occurring special-status species in Telephone Cut, the San Joaquin River, and regional delta waterways biological resources as a result of the proposed project.


As documented in Appendix B, there are no other known environmental effects due to unusual circumstances that could be considered significant under CEQA.

**Avoidance and Minimization Measures Included in Project:**

- Construction access via existing levee and farm roads.
- Minimization of overall construction disturbance area and minimization of project footprint in jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.
- Isolation and de-watering in-water work areas.
- Construction scheduling between August 1 and November 30 to avoid potential impacts to special-status species and nesting birds.
- Conducting pre-construction surveys and implementing take avoidance measures for nesting Swainson's hawks and other nesting birds for construction prior to September 1.
- Conducting pre-construction surveys for northwestern pond turtle and giant garter snake and implementing take avoidance measures.
- Construction staging in adjacent upland areas that are biologically unremarkable.

**Lead Agency Contact Person: Erik Almaas, District Engineer Kjeldsen Sinnock Neudeck**

**Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-946-0268**

Signature:  Date: 4/20/2026

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources: California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines