
APPENDIX G



February 28, 2025

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Subject: Biological resources letter report for the Pacific Gateway Specific Plan Project off-site areas at Chrisman Road in San Joaquin County, California

Dear Nick Pappani:

Bargas Environmental Consulting (Bargas) prepared this biological resources letter report (report) for the approximately seven (7) miles of road widening work, which is associated with the Pacific Gateway Specific Plan in San Joaquin County, California. A Biological Resources Assessment report was prepared for the Project by Bargas, dated February 2025. The purpose of this letter report is to understand the existing conditions of the proposed road widening work (i.e., Project) areas and quantify the biological resources identified on-site through literature reviews and field surveys. This data is used to determine the occurrence potential for special-status species, examine the suitability of potential habitat, and anticipate the local, state, or federal regulations potentially applicable to the Project.

Project Location & Description

The Project site consists of approximately 248.94 acres of existing roadways, intersections, and nearby land spanning approximately seven (7) miles in an unincorporated region of San Joaquin County (**Figure 1**). The roadways within the Project site consist of segments of South Chrisman Road, South MacArthur Drive, and West Linne Road, with intersections at Vernalis Road, South Bird Road, South Tracy Boulevard, South Corral Hollow Road, West Schulte Road, and West 11th street. The approximate center point is 37° 41' 46.2" North 121° 23' 53.1" West. The Project is located in Township 2S, Range 5 and 6 East, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, and 36 on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Tracy, Vernalis, and Lathrop 7.5-minute Quadrangles. The Regional Area is a part of the San Joaquin Delta watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code-8 18040003. The Project is located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP). Specifically, with the SJMSCP the Project site is located within the Central, Central/Southwest Transition, and Southwest Zones. In addition, one road segment of South Bird Road just north of the Delta Mendota Canal is located within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat for Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*).

The proposed Project consists of planned road widening of: Chrisman Road from Interstate 580 to 11th Street, a segment of South MacArthur Drive between two unnamed dirt roads, and West Linne Road from South Corral Hollow Road to South Chrisman Road. Additionally, the Project includes improvements to ten (10) intersections (**Figure 2**).

Methods

This report is informed by data from a desktop analysis of pertinent literature and several resource databases, as well as the field surveys, the methods for which are described below.

Definitions

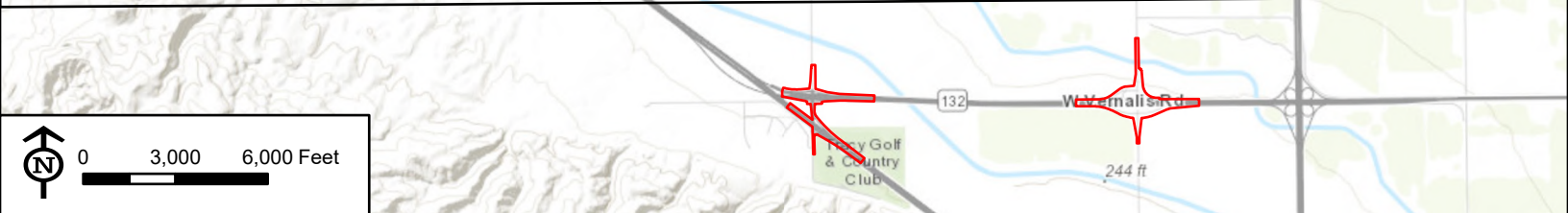
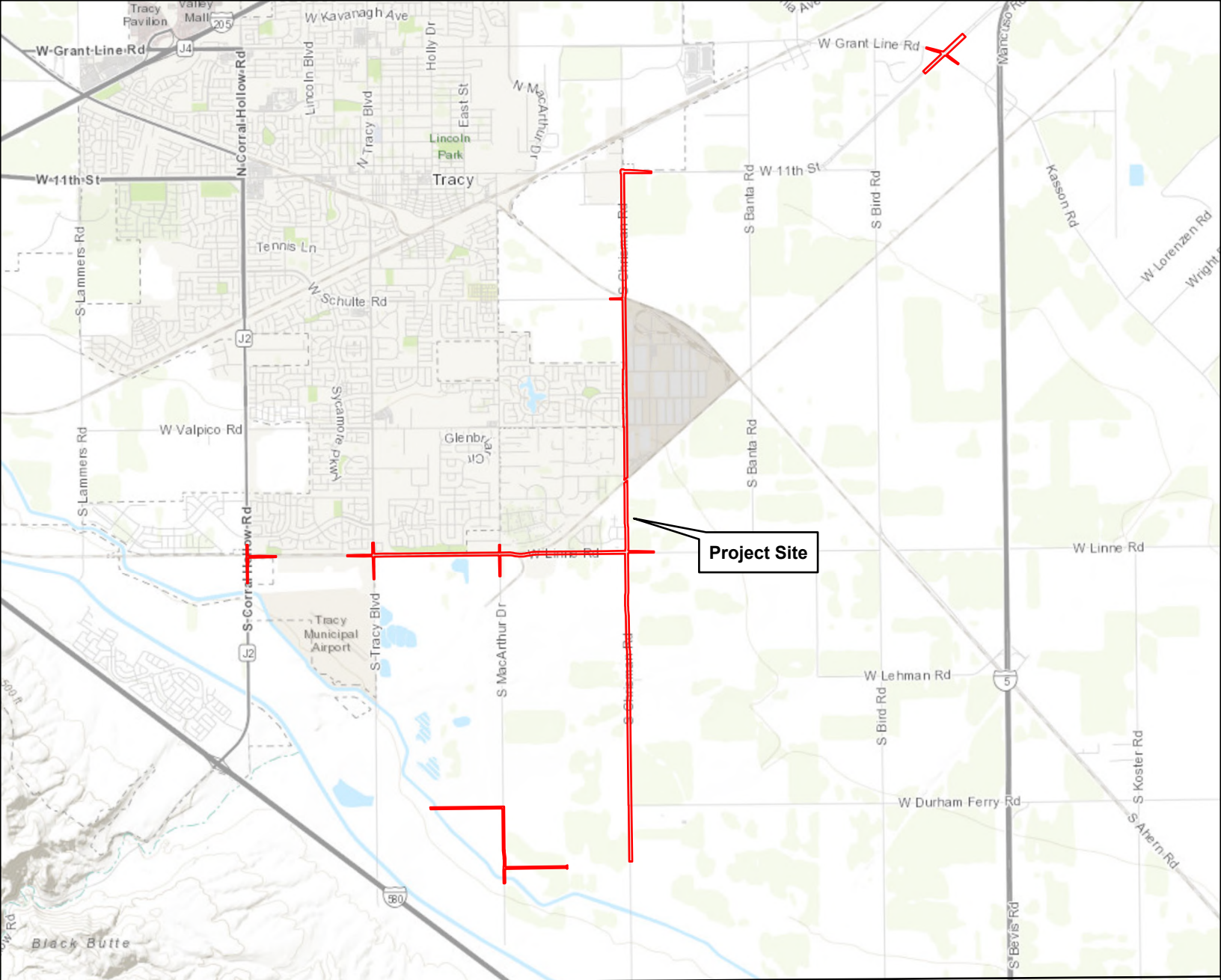
This report will use the following definitions for areas referred to herein:

Sacramento Valley ➡ Inland Valley ➡ Greater Los Angeles ➡ San Diego ➡ San Francisco Bay Area

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- **Project site:** The 7-miles of South Chrisman Road, segments of South MacArthur Drive and West Linne Road, and ten intersections.
- **Biological Study Area:** The Project site and a 250-foot buffer.
- **Regional Area:** The Project site and a 5-mile buffer. The Regional Area was used as the basis for generating lists of special-status species and other biological resources considered in this report.



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Topographic Map, World Street Map

BARGAS
Environmental Consulting

Map Created: 2/10/2025, Map Revised: N/A, Bargas Project Number: 1644-22

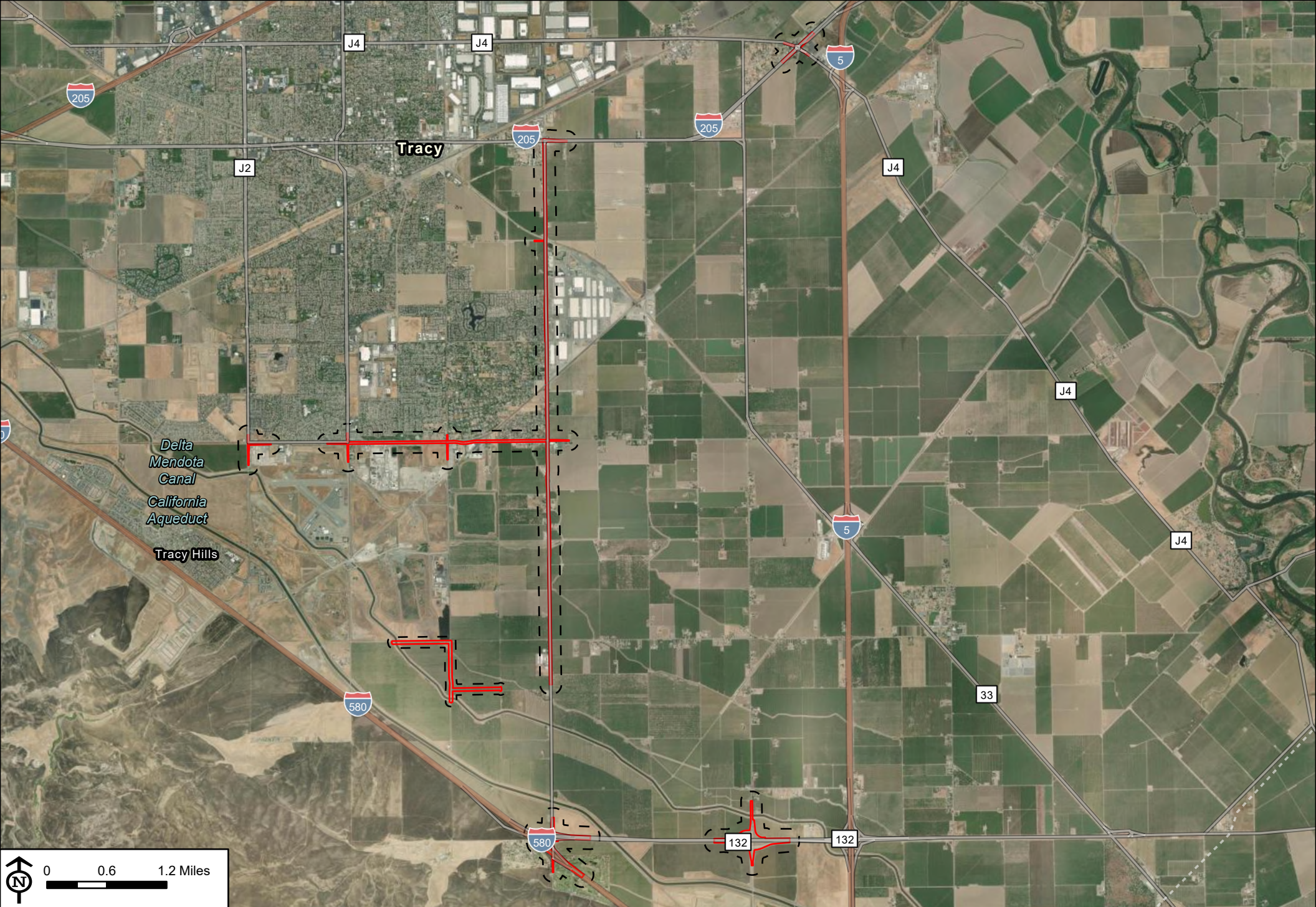
Public Land Survey System (PLSS):
Mount Diablo, Township 2S, 3S, Range 5E, 6E, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36

USGS Quad(s): Tracy (n.d.), Vernalis (n.d.), Lathrop (n.d.)

Project Site Coordinates: 121°24'2"W 37°41'38"N

Project Site and Vicinity

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



- Project Site
- Study Area

Figure 2 Study Area Context

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Desktop Review

Prior to conducting the field survey, Bargas conducted an initial review of literature and data sources to characterize the biological conditions and to compile records of sensitive biological resources that could potentially occur in the Biological Study Area (Study Area). The methods used for this analysis are described below.

Biological Setting

The biological setting includes terrain, hydrology, soils, land uses, and other features that support or inhibit biological resources in an area. To better understand the biological setting of the Project, the following resources were reviewed in detail:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service's *National Wetlands Inventory* to determine if surface waters and wetlands have been mapped on or adjacent to the Study Area.
- US Geological Survey's *National Hydrography Dataset* to determine if hydrological features have been mapped on or adjacent to the Study Area.
- San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) *California Aquatic Resources Inventory* (CARI), 2024, to determine if hydrological features have been mapped on or adjacent to the Study Area.
- US Department of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service *Web Soil Survey* to map and describe soil(s) within the Study Area.
- Google Earth Pro (2025) aerial map images of the Study Area, including historical aerial images.

Special-Status Species & Habitats

It is important to create a well-defined list of habitats and species that could reasonably be expected to occur on the Project site in order to analyze potential Project effects on biological resources effectively. The following describes how the list of potentially-occurring special-status biological resources was assembled.

Data Sources

Species and habitat occurrences were queried from the following resources:

- The San Joaquin County's *Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan* (SJMSCP 2000) for a list of species covered under the Plan, or "SJMSCP Covered Species". Covered species were considered for their potential to occur within the Project site based on Preserve (habitat) types within the Central Zone, the Central/Southwest Transition Zone, and the Southwest Zone. The SJMSCP Covered Species reasonably expected to occur were primarily associated with the Row and Field Crop/Riparian Preserve habitats of the Central Zone (not including those associated only with the Stanislaus, San Joaquin, or Mokelumne Rivers).
- US Fish and Wildlife Service *Information for Planning and Consultation* portal (IPaC, 2025) for a list of federally listed species and designated critical habitat recommended for impact analysis consideration, based on an upload of the Study Area limits.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDB, 2025) for special-status species records and sensitive habitats/vegetation within the Regional Area.
- California Native Plant Society *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* (CNPS, 2025) for a list of special-status plant species occurrences within the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles that overlap the Regional Area.



Special-Status Designations Considered

A variety of agencies and respected non-profit organizations assess the conservation status of plant and wildlife species; however, not all are applicable to this report. The following special-status designations were considered when determining special-status species to be discussed in this report:

- **Federal Status:** Species listed as Endangered (FE) or Threatened (FT), as well as species Proposed as Endangered (FPE), Proposed as Threatened (FPT), Proposed for Delisting (FPD), and Candidates (FC) for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA).
- **California Status:** Species listed as Endangered (CE) or Threatened (CT), as well as species that are Candidates for Endangered (CCE) status, Threatened (CCT) status, or Delisting (CCD) under the California Endangered Species Act. Also considered are species listed as Fully Protected (FP) and Species of Special Concern (SSC).
- **CNPS Status:** All California Rare Plant Ranks (CRPR) maintained by the CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*.

Occurrence Potential

Based on the desktop review, field surveys, and habitat analyses, Bargas generated a list of special-status species for evaluation and assessed the potential for each special-status species likelihood of occurrence on-site. Biological conditions (e.g., vegetation communities, habitats, disturbances, etc.) on-site as well as the habitat and life cycle requirements of special-status species identified for the potential to occur analysis were considered. “Recent” occurrences are defined as observed within the past 30 years. Based on these considerations, each species was assigned a level of potential to occur, using the following categories:

- **Present:** Species was detected during biological surveys conducted for the Project by Bargas.
- **High:** Species with recorded occurrence(s) within or near the Study Area and suitable habitat (e.g., appropriate elevation, hydrology, soils, cover, habitat type, food resources, and etc.) exists in the Study Area; however, the species was not observed during biological surveys for the Project.
- **Moderate:** Species with no known recorded occurrence(s) within or near the Study Area and the species was not observed during biological surveys for the Project. However, habitat within the Study Area is suitable to support the species.
- **Not Expected:** Species with no known recorded occurrence(s) within or near the Study Area. No suitable habitat present on-site; or habitat is within the Project, but habitat on-site is substantially disturbed, fragmented, or is small in extent such that is very unlikely to support the species.
- **Presumed Absent:** There are no records of the species occurring within or near the Study Area, the Study Area is not within the known geographic range for the species, and/or suitable habitat (e.g., soil, vegetation, elevational range, etc.) was not found during the field surveys conducted for the Project. This species is detectable year-round and would have been detected during surveys, but was not, or focused surveys were conducted for the species and the species was not detected.

The potential for bird species were further distinguished into those that may: 1) nest within or near the Study Area; 2) forage within or near the Study Area; and/or 3) occur on or near the Study Area only as transients during migratory flights or other dispersal events.



Field Surveys

Bargas Biologist Anthony Hartman performed a reconnaissance-level biological survey on September 28 and October 2, 2023. Weather was typical for the season with temperatures ranging from 66 °Fahrenheit (°F) to 75 °F, partly cloudy skies, and no substantial wind or precipitation on either day. On January 21, 2025, Bargas Biologist Corey Clapp conducted another reconnaissance-level field survey for biological resources to survey additional areas of the Project site that were not previously surveyed in 2023. The biological resources mapping was also updated and refined as appropriate. The weather was typical for the season with the temperature ranging from 54°F to 61°F and mostly clear skies with a light breeze.

These field surveys primarily consisted of walking meandering transects throughout the publicly accessible road rights-of-way (ROW) within the Project site. Other areas, outside of the ROW, were surveyed visually through the windshield/windows of the surveyor vehicle. Binoculars were used to assist in the survey as applicable. The Project site was evaluated for the presence of habitat components that could support special-status wildlife and plant species identified during the Literature and Database Review described above. Habitats that were determined to be potential habitat for a special-status species were further assessed for suitability.

The biologists conducted vegetation mapping, classifying vegetation communities and land cover types generally following the Manual of California Vegetation (MCV): Second Edition (CNPS 2022a), where applicable. The MCV provides standard classifications based on community composition and structure, with further definitions based on dominant species cover. Additionally, identified vegetation communities were also classified as outlined in Section 2.2.1 of the SJMSCP. The biological surveys conducted were comprehensive but do not equate to protocol-level surveys or focused surveys defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), CNPS, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), or other local resource protection agencies. To assist with the classification of observed aquatic resources, California Aquatic Resources Inventory (CARI) GIS database was used. Throughout the surveys, plant and animal species detected on site were recorded (**Appendix A**).

One relatively small portion of the Project site, located in the southwest corner (i.e., a segment of South MacArthur Drive and two unnamed dirt roads), was not included within the field surveys. Biological resources mapping of this area was completed using aerial imagery as well as comparing other mapped areas of the Project that were surveyed in the field.

Seasonal and temporal factors may have influenced species detection during the surveys. The surveys were conducted in September and January and may have missed potentially occurring migrant bird/insect species or plant species outside of their blooming period. In addition, the surveys were performed during the day and were limited to diurnal wildlife species. The surveys performed were not protocol-level focused surveys. Dates, times, personnel, and weather conditions for the surveys are summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Survey Summary Table

Date	Biologist	Time	Start Conditions			End Conditions		
			Temperature	Clouds	Wind	Temperature	Clouds	Wind
9/28/2023	Anthony Hartman	0930 - 1530	66° Fahrenheit (F)	Partly cloudy	Calm	77°F	Partly cloudy	Calm
10/02/2023	Anthony Hartman	1100 – 1230	73°F	Partly cloudy	Calm	75°F	Partly cloudy	Calm
1/22/2025	Corey Clapp	1100-1515	52°F	Clear skies	Calm	65°F	Clear skies	Calm



Results

This section discusses what is known about biological resources in the Study Area based on information from the field surveys, 288 CNDDDB records, 8 CNPS records, 14 IPaC records, and 1 critical habitat for Delta Smelt determination in the Regional Area.

Existing Conditions and Land Use

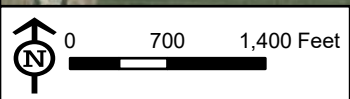
When viewing the Project site and surrounding Regional Area in its entirety on aerial photography, the primary land use of the region is agriculture. Natural habitats are present, consisting of interspersed annual grasslands. The Delta Mendota canal and the Edmund G. Brown California Aqueduct transect the Regional Area. There are no substantial terrain features present in the Regional Area and elevations within the Project site range from approximately 50 to 325 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

Soils

Nine soil types are mapped within the Project site (NRCS 2025), as summarized in **Table 2** below with the types, parent material, drainage class, and hydric rating. A map showing soils on-site is provided as (**Figure 3**).

Table 2. Soil Series within the Project Site

Soil Series	Map Unit Number	Map Unit Symbol	Parent Material	Drainage Class	Hydric Rating
Capay clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, MLRA 17	118	2xc8q	Clayey alluvium derived from sedimentary rock	Moderately well drained	No
Capay-Urban land complex, 0 percent slopes, MLRA 17	122	2y0dy	Clayey alluvium derived from sedimentary rock	Moderately well drained	No
El Solyo clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	156	Hhss	Alluvium derived from sedimentary rock	Well drained	No
Pits, gravel	214	N/A	N/A	N/A	No
Stomar clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	252	Hhww	Alluvium derived from sedimentary rock	Well drained	No
Vernalis clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	268	hhxd	Alluvium derived from mixed rock sources	Well drained	No
Willows clay, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes	274	hhxl	Alluvium derived from mixed sources	Poorly drained	Yes
Zacharias clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	281	hhxt	Alluvium derived from mixed rock sources	Well drained	No
Zacharias gravelly clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	282	hhxv	Alluvium derived from mixed rock sources	Well drained	No



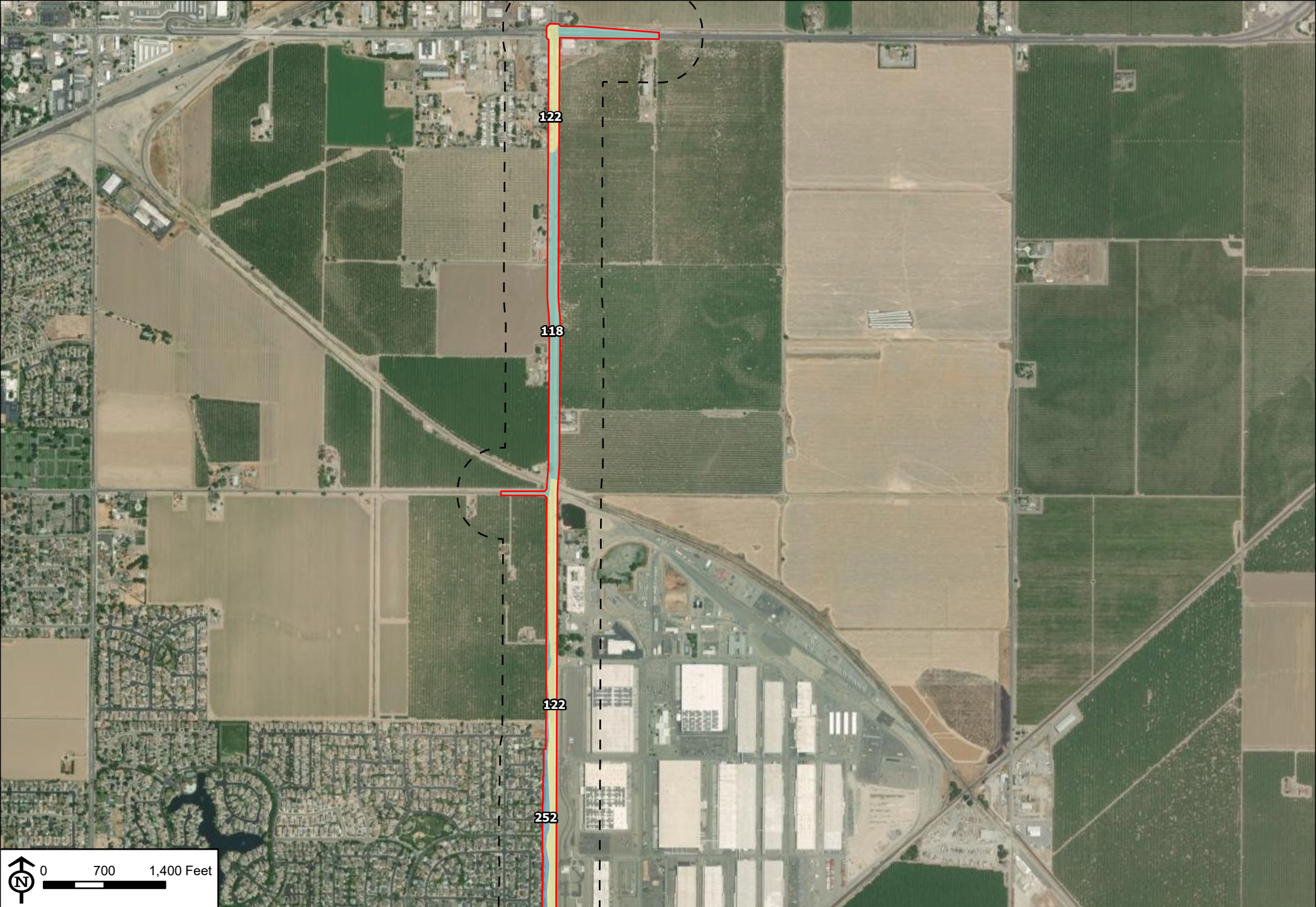
Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



Project Site	122 - Capay-Urban land complex, 0 percent slopes, MLRA 17	252 - Stomar clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	281 - Zacharias clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slope
Study Area	156 - El Solyo clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	268- Vernalis clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	282 - Zacharias gravelly clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
118 - Capay clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, MLRA 17	214 - Pits, grave	274 - Willows clay, partially drained, 0 to 2 percent slopes	W - Water

Figure 3 Soils Map

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



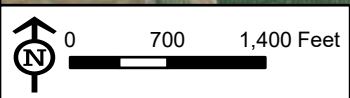
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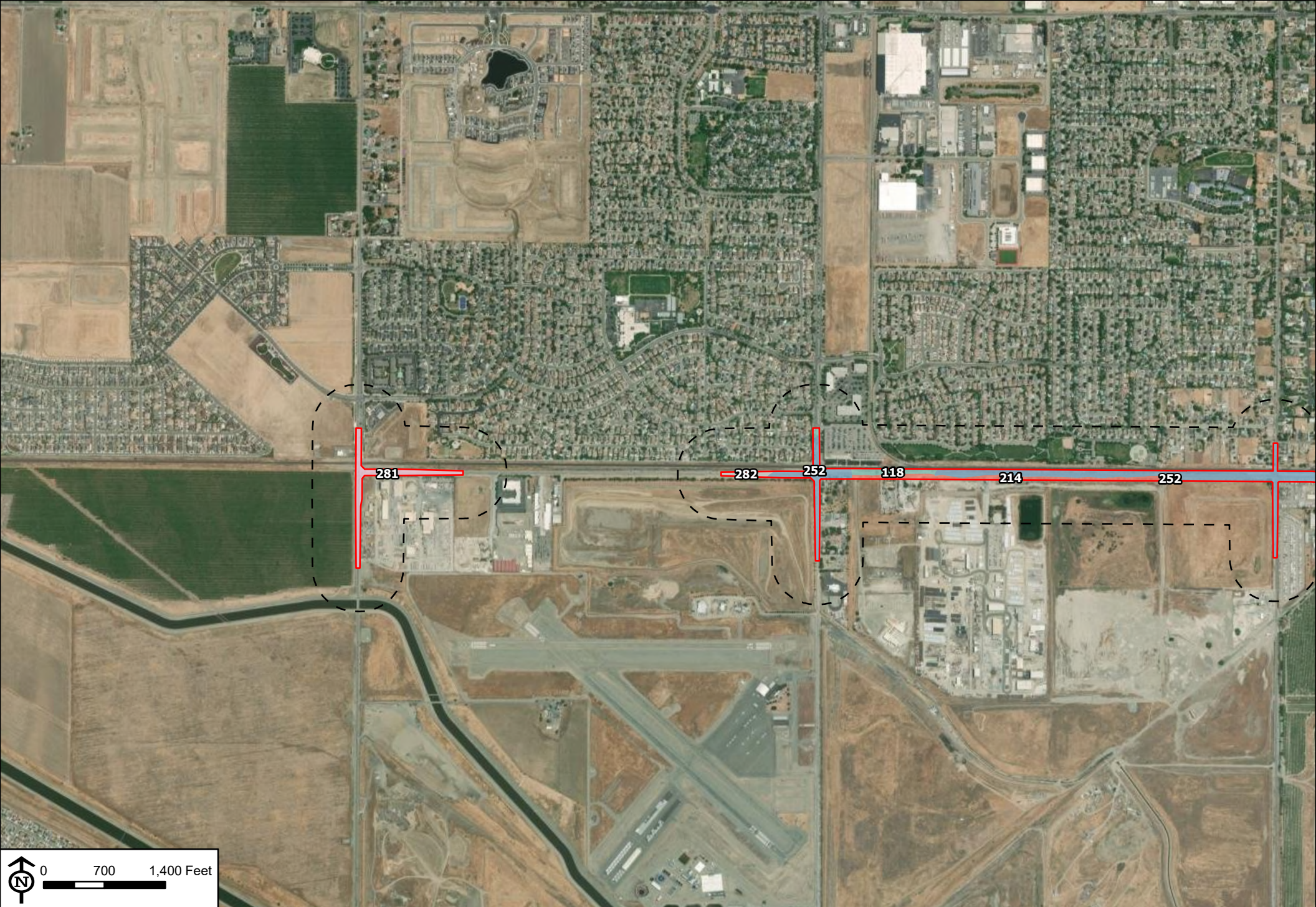
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Figure 3 Soils Map

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



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*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



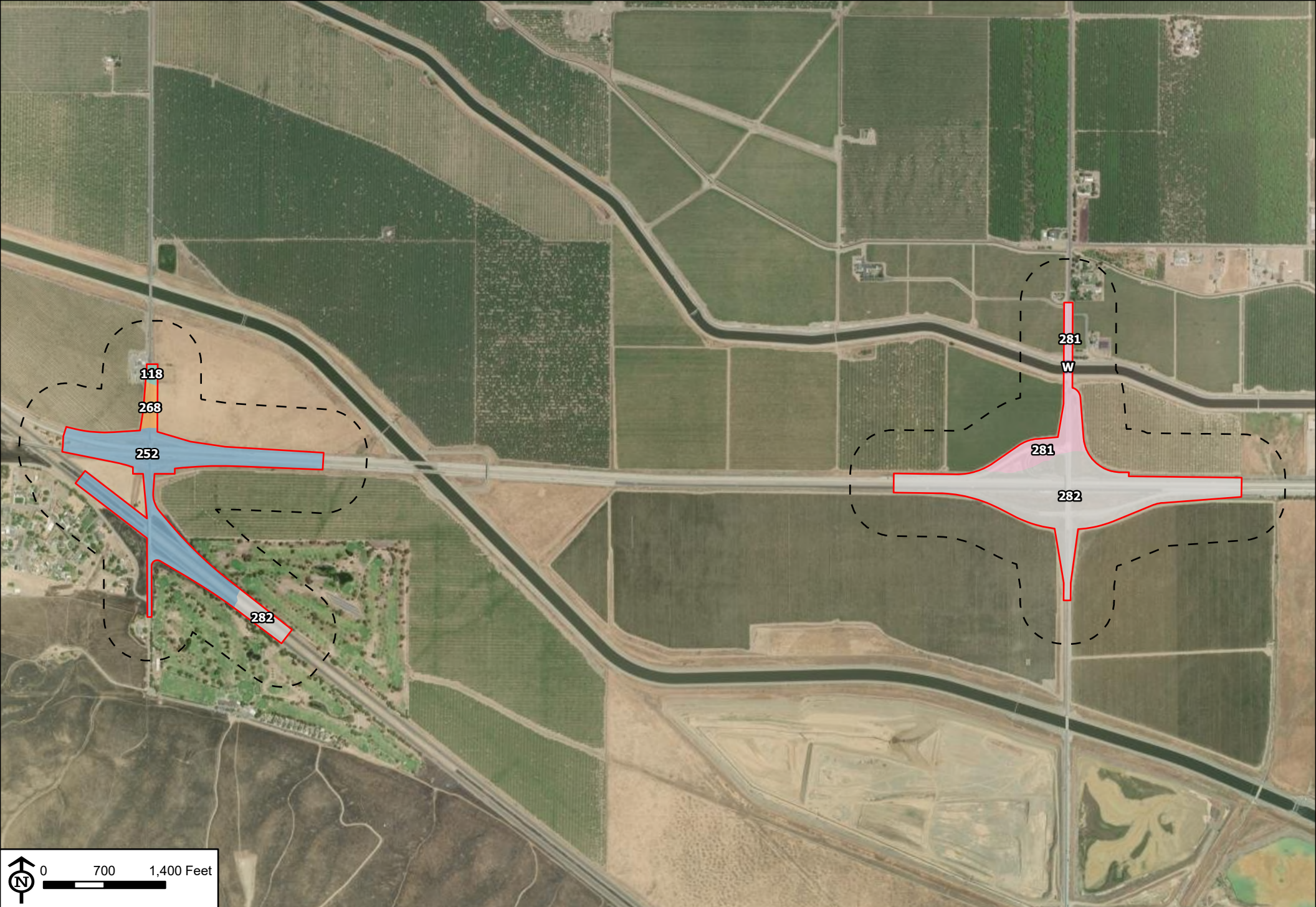
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Figure 3 Soils Map

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



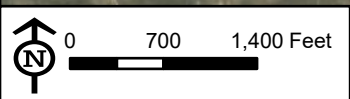
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Figure 3 Soils Map

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



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Figure 3 Soils Map
*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
 Project - Chrisman Road*



Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

The Project site was found to support six vegetation communities and land cover types as classified by CNPS MCV alliance definitions. These include Deciduous Orchards, Wild Oats and Annual Brome Grassland, Disturbed/Developed, Cultivated/Landscaped, Wetlands, and Canal. Considering these classifications, a crosswalk to vegetation communities described by SJMSCP was completed, correlating to: Orchards and Vineyards (C2), Valley Grasslands (G), Scraped/Paved Areas (U2), Cultivated/Landscaped (U3), and Freshwater Emergent Wetlands (W7), respectively. The Delta-Mendota Canal, the Lateral Five East Canal, and an unnamed concrete-lined canal bisect the Project site and are classified as Canal (W9) by the SJMSCP (**Figure 4**).

Disturbed/Developed

The majority of the Project site is comprised of disturbed roadside areas, paved and unpaved roads, as well as developed retail, residential, industrial, and agriculture lots. This landcover type is classified as “Scraped/Paved Areas (U2)” in the SJMSCP. The main paved roads within the Project site include South Chrisman Road, West Linne Road, and South Macarthur Drive along with various intersections and Western Pacific Railroad. These areas are mapped as the Disturbed/Developed.

Cultivated/Landscaped

In residential areas along South Chrisman Road and West Linne Road, typical residential landscaping such as sod grass and ornamental trees were observed. Additional plantings along manufacturer lots included species such as oleander (*Nerium oleander*), and Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). This landcover type is classified as “Golf Courses/Cultivated Parks (U3)” in the SJMSCP. These communities are mapped as Cultivated/Landscaped and appear to be maintained by regular trimming.

Deciduous Orchards

The areas surrounding the Project site primarily used for agriculture are mapped as Deciduous Orchards. This landcover type is classified as “Orchards and Vineyards (C2)” in the SJMSCP. The primary crops grown within this vegetation community consist of almonds (*Prunus dulcis*) and peaches (*Prunus persica*). The orchards have been developed for weed control resulting in limited plant growth. Some areas have been treated with a layer of straw for an additional level of weed suppression. Non-orchard agricultural fields were observed on-site, on either side of South Chrisman Road, that are included within the Orchard classification as well.

Annual Grassland

An open, non-cultivated, roadside field immediately north of Highway 132 near the intersection of South Chrisman Road is comprised of the Valley Grassland vegetation community and is consistent with the *Avena* spp. - *Bromus* spp. Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance (wild oats and annual brome grasslands; CNPS 2025). This vegetation community is classified as “Valley Grassland (G)” in the SJMSCP. This community is also found in two areas west of South Chrisman Road where the Project site overlaps open fields. Vegetation consists of non-native annual grasses.

Wetlands

The Project site also contains freshwater emergent wetlands, located where Corral Hollow Creek bisects South Chrisman Road, and at the Vernalis Road and South Bird Road intersection. This vegetation community is classified as “Freshwater Emergent Wetlands (W7)” in the SJMSCP. These features, mapped as Wetlands, lacked vegetation and showed signs of heavy anthropogenic disturbance.

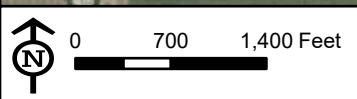


Canal

Open water in the form of the Delta Mendota Canal, the Lateral Five East Canal, and an unnamed concrete-lined canal were found on the Project site and mapped accordingly as Canals. The Delta Mendota Canal was observed to be inundated and flowing, predominantly lacking vegetation cover.

Sensitive Vegetation Communities

CDFW identifies sensitive communities according to rarity, trends, and other ecological threats and assigns natural vegetation communities a global (G) and state (S) sensitivity rank (CNPS 2022b). Surveys across the Project site found the site does not contain vegetation community alliances identified by CDFW and CNPS as a sensitive natural community (CNPS 2022b). Additionally, no sensitive vegetation communities were mapped by the CNDDDB within the Project site.



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



- Project Site
- Study Area

Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types

- Canal (W9)
- Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)

- Deciduous Orchard (C2)
- Disturbed/Developed (U2)
- Wetland (W7)
- Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)

 Project Site
 Study Area

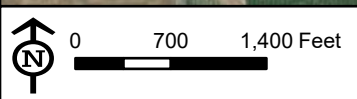
Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types

 Canal (W9)
 Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)

 Deciduous Orchard (C2)
 Disturbed/Developed (U2)
 Wetland (W7)
 Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
 Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)

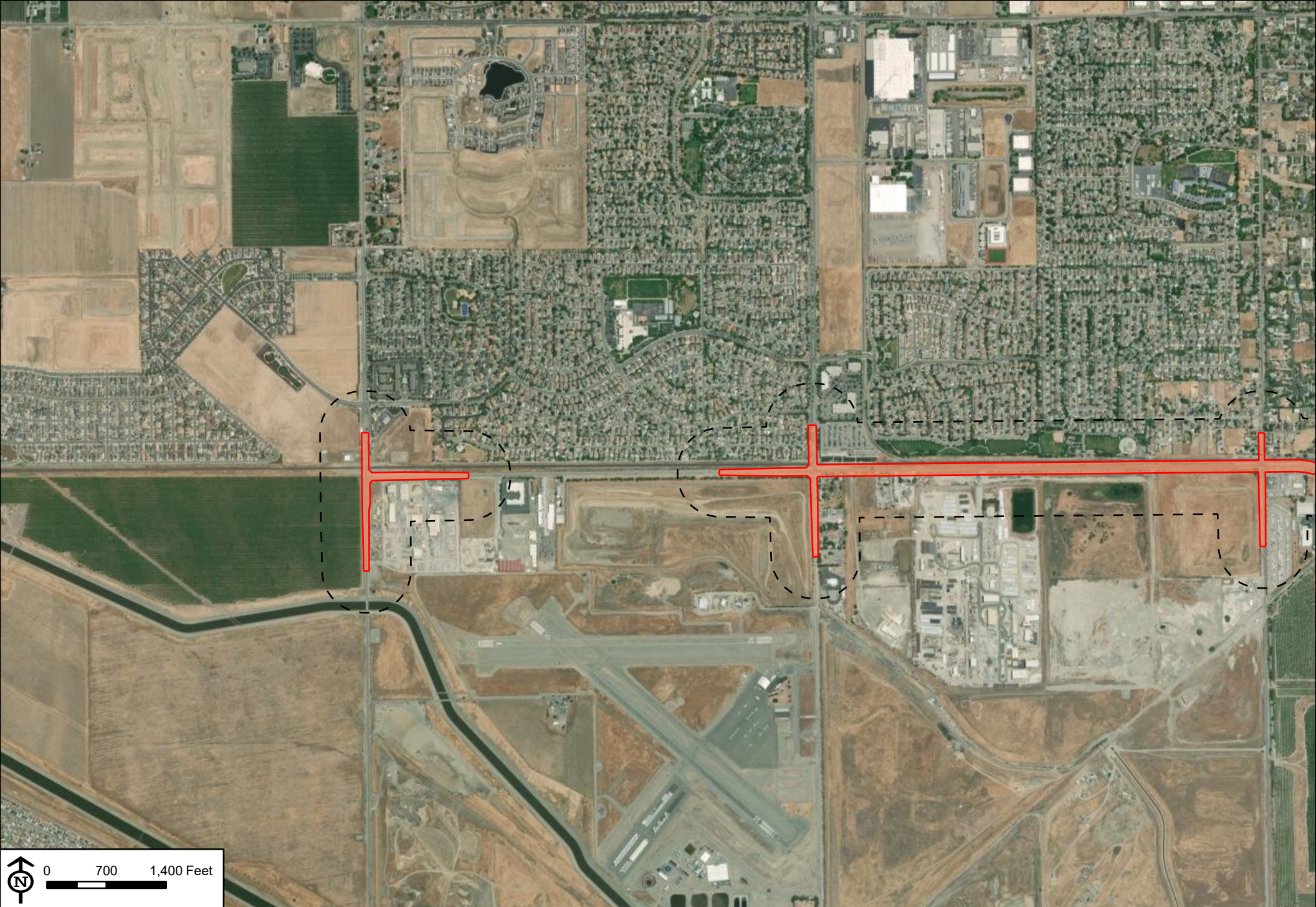


- ▬ Project Site
- - - Study Area

Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types

- ▬ Canal (W9)
- ▬ Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)
- ▬ Deciduous Orchard (C2)
- ▬ Disturbed/Developed (U2)
- ▬ Wetland (W7)
- ▬ Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover
*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



- Project Site
- Study Area

Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types

- Canal (W9)
- Disturbed/Developed (U2)
- Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)
- Deciduous Orchard (C2)
- Wetland (W7)
- Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)

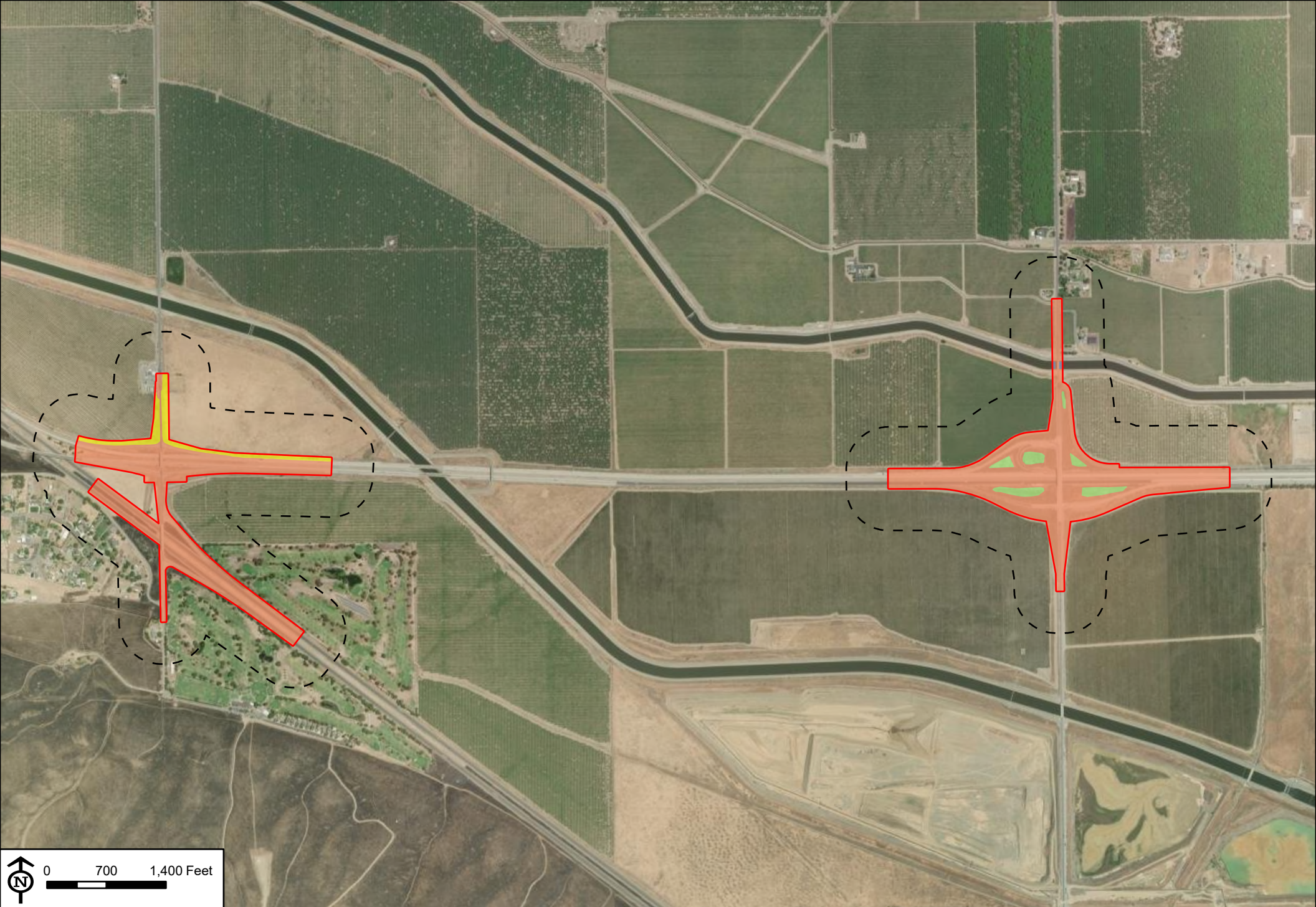
Project Site
Study Area

**Vegetation Communities
and Landcover Types**

Canal (W9)
Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)

Deciduous Orchard (C2)
Disturbed/Developed (U2)
Wetland (W7)
Wild Oat and Annual Brome
Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover
*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



Project Site
 Study Area

Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types	
Canal (W9)	Deciduous Orchard (C2)
Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)	Disturbed/Developed (U2)
	Wetland (W7)
	Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover
*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
 Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)

 Project Site
 Study Area

Vegetation Communities and Landcover Types

 Canal (W9)
 Cultivated/Landscaped (U3)

 Deciduous Orchard (C2)
 Disturbed/Developed (U2)
 Wetland (W7)
 Wild Oat and Annual Brome Grassland (G)

Figure 4 Vegetation and Land Cover

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
 Project - Chrisman Road*



Aquatic Resources

Aquatic features were observed on-site and consisted of concrete-lined canals, Corral Hollow Creek, a biological swale, wetlands, and roadside ditches. These features have been broadly classified as Canals, Wetlands, and Roadside Ditches (**Figure 5**). Multiple segments of concrete-lined canals intersect the Project site along South Chrisman Road, West Linne Road, South Bird Road, South MacArthur Drive, and an unnamed, unpaved farm road. These segments are components of the Delta-Mendota Canal, the Lateral Five East Canal, and an unnamed concrete-lined canal. Additionally, although the proposed Project does not currently include roadwork at/over the California Aqueduct, South Chrisman Road bridge widening over the California Aqueduct is expected, which would be completed at a later date; thus, the California Aqueduct is also discussed in this report.

Corral Hollow Creek also intersects the Project site at South Chrisman Road and is classified as a Canal for mapping purposes in this report. Corral Hollow creek, a freshwater tributary of the San Joaquin River, as well as the Delta Mendota Canal and the California Aqueduct are identified by the USACE Sacramento District as a Traditionally Navigable Water (TNW); thus, they are potentially subject to regulation within Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act under the jurisdiction of USACE. Waters subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act are also considered waters of the U.S. subject to regulation by USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Based on a review of aerial imagery and CARI, the Lateral Five East Canal and the unnamed concrete-lined canal were not presumed to have a hydrologic connection to any TNWs; as a result, these features are not subject to regulation by USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. Further, the Delta-Mendota Canal, the California Aqueduct, the Lateral Five East Canal, Corral Hollow Creek, and the unnamed concrete-lined canal may also be considered waters of the State, regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Additionally, because these features contain a bed and bank, they would be subject to potential regulation by CDFW under Section 1600 of CDFW California Fish and Game Code (CFGF).

Other aquatic resources found on-site consist of freshwater emergent wetlands. Although a formal jurisdictional delineation was not performed for these areas, due to the conditions observed on-site, it was assumed that these wetlands had similar soils, hydrology, and vegetation to Water Basin 2 (WO2), which was determined to be a potential water of the State due to the presence of hydric soils and hydrology within the basin during a jurisdictional delineation performed by Bargas in 2023 for the Pacific Gateway Specific Plan Project (Bargas 2023). Thus, for purposes of this report these freshwater emergent wetlands found at the Project site were considered to be wetland waters of the State. Located alongside Highway 132, these substantially disturbed emergent wetlands serve as roadside detention basins, which are isolated (i.e., not connected) to other aquatic features and serve to collect stormwater runoff from the adjacent roadways. Trash and other debris were observed on-site within and around these basins. Given their isolated position in the landscape and the similarity to other aquatic features, such as Water Basin 2 (WO2), that met wetland criteria, these areas are considered potentially jurisdictional by the CVRWQCB per the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Bargas 2023). Because these features do not contain a bed or bank, they would not be subject to potential regulation under Section 1600 of the CFGF by CDFW.

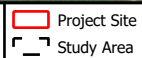
In addition to the wetlands features found on-site, eight roadside ditch features were also identified during the surveys. Four roadside ditches are interspersed on the east and west sides of South Chrisman Road, and one roadside ditch runs along the south side of West Linne Road, east of the South Tracy Boulevard intersection. Another roadside ditch on-site flows between the northwest- and southeast-bound West 11th Street, passing through three culverts and under Kasson Road. Where Chrisman Road intersects Vernalis Road and Interstate 580, there are two additional roadside drainages, connected by culverts. Additionally, a swale feature was observed on the east side of Chrisman Road, south of the intersection with West Linne Road, in the Jefferson School parking lot. This swale was also classified as roadside ditch for mapping purposes. All roadside ditches observed on-site as well as the swale feature were considered isolated; due to the lack of hydrologic surface connectivity to nearby or downstream aquatic features, such as the canal/creeks or wetlands features discussed above. Therefore, these features are potentially subject to CVRWQCB jurisdiction only per the Porter-



Cologne Water Quality Act. Because these ditch features do contain a bed and bank, they would be subject to potential CDFW jurisdiction and regulation under Section 1600 of the CFGC.



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)

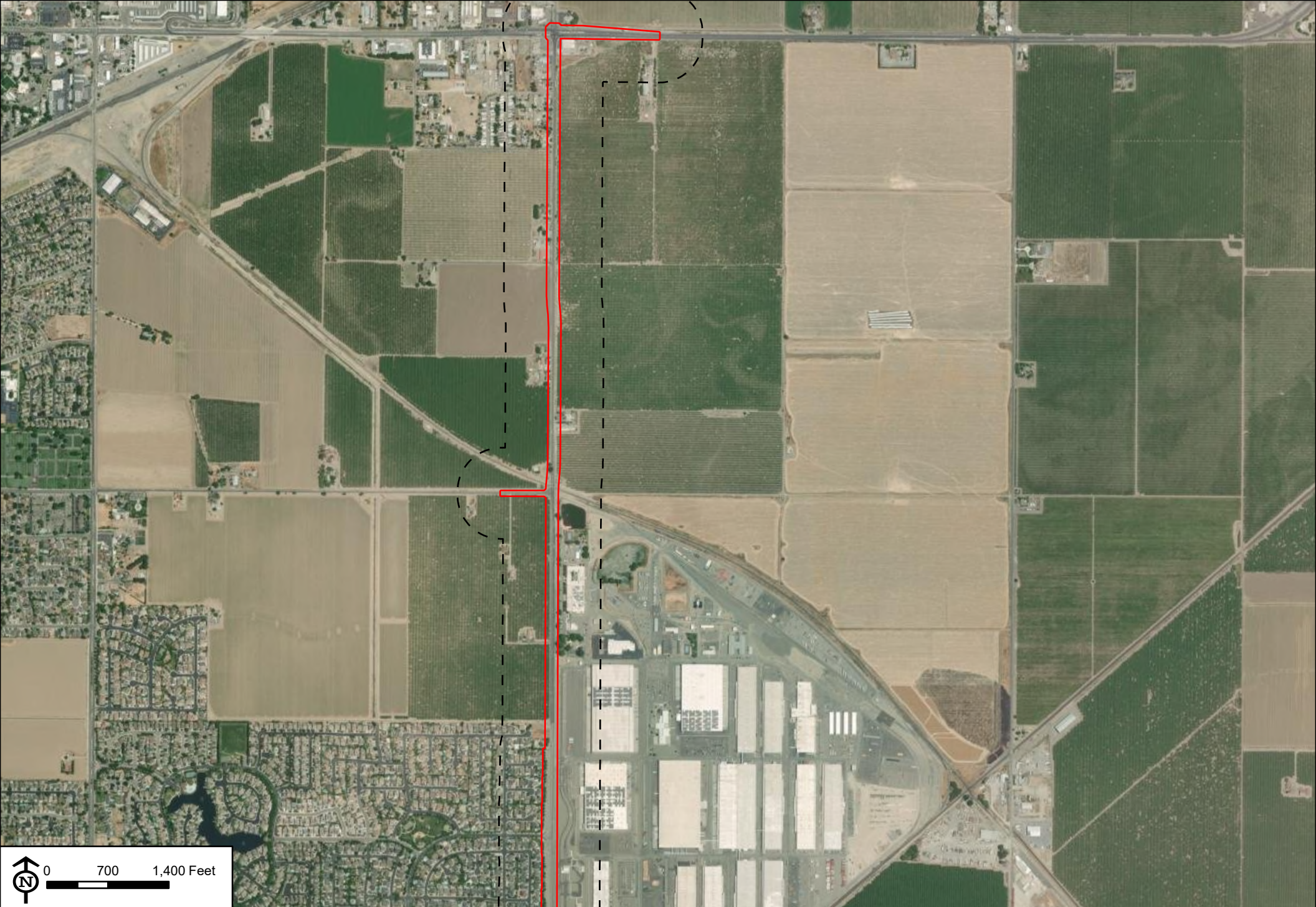


Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

- Canal
- Roadside Ditch
- Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



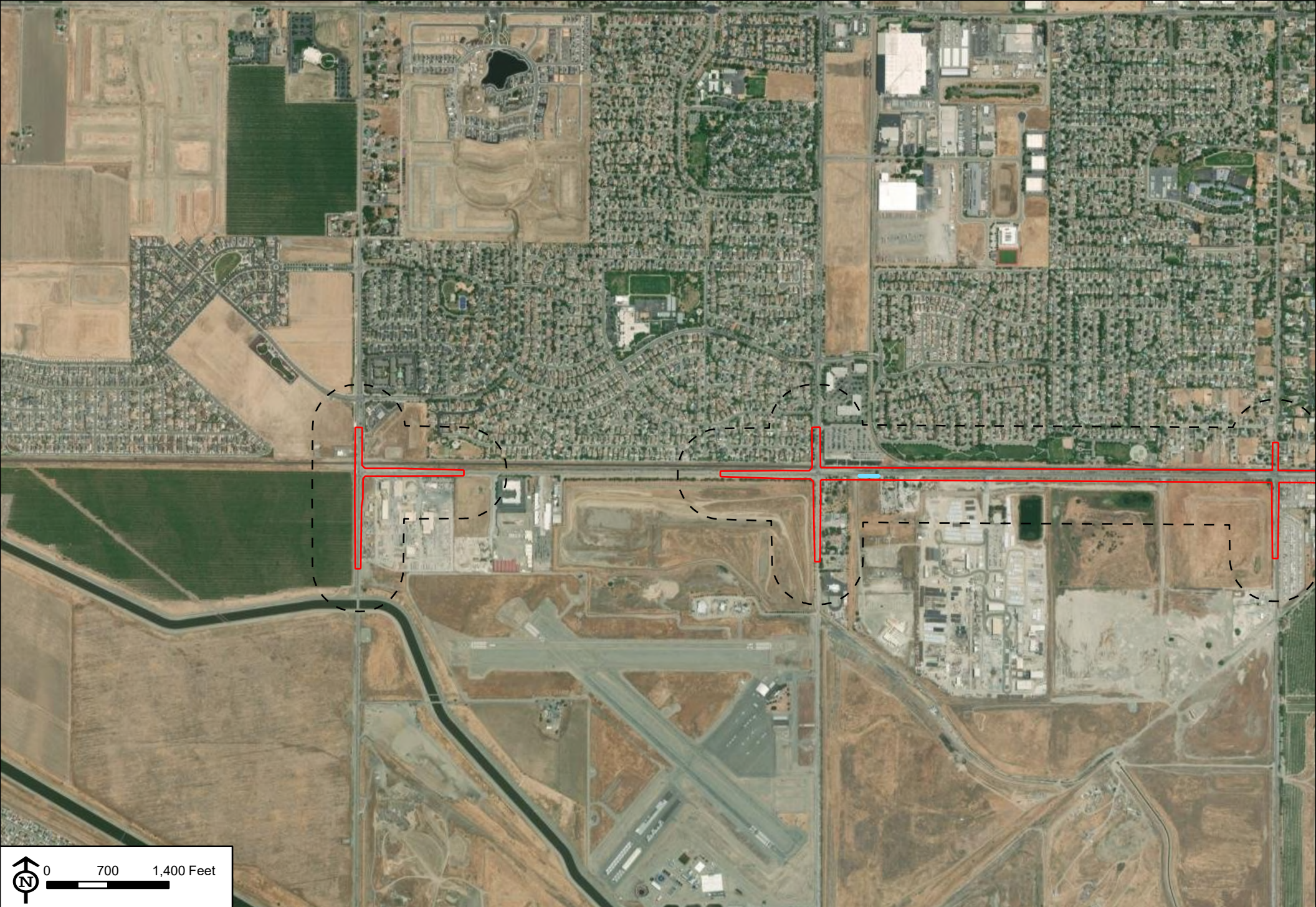
Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



 Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

 Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



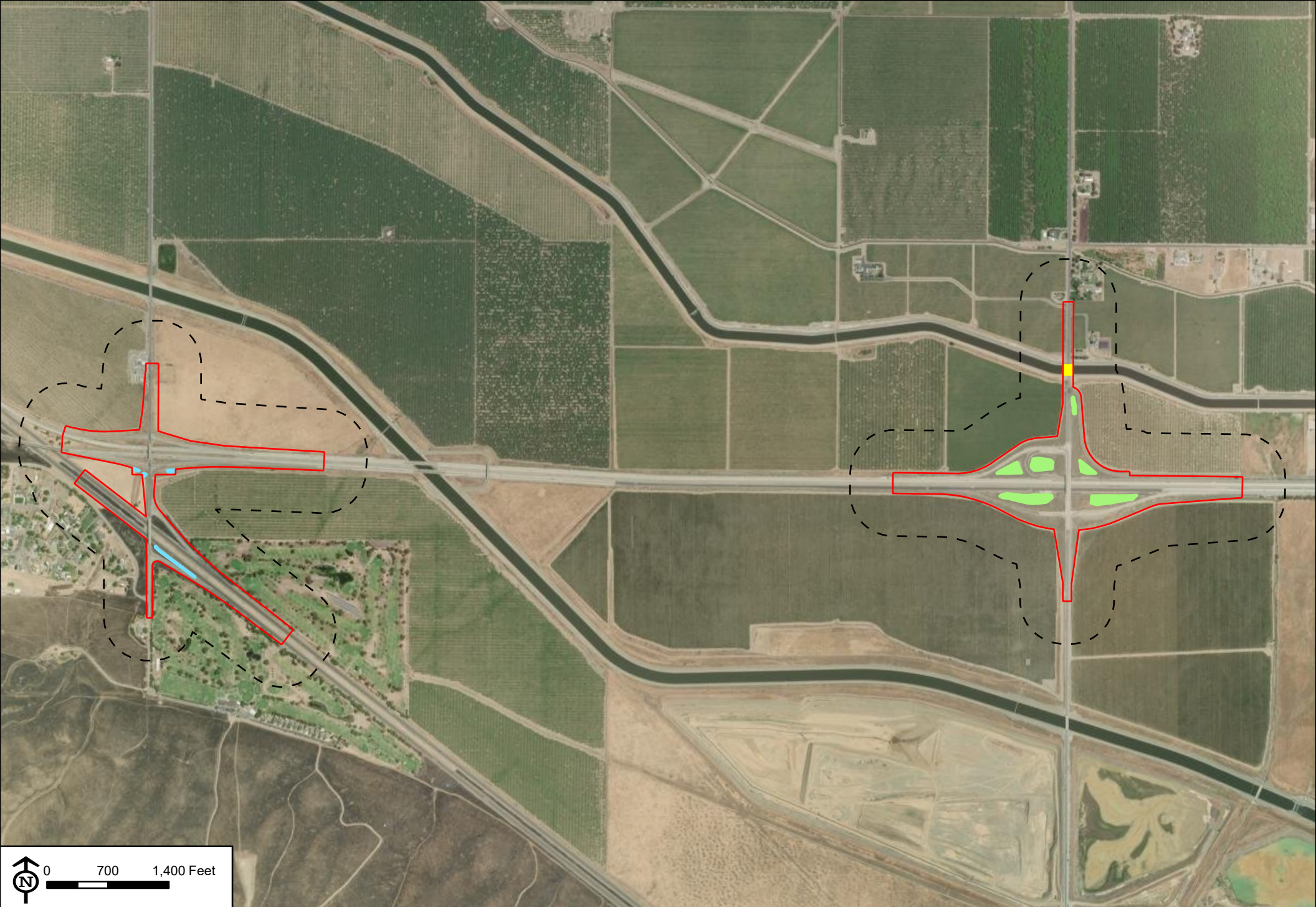
Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



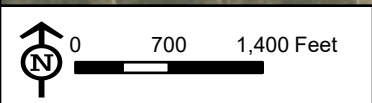
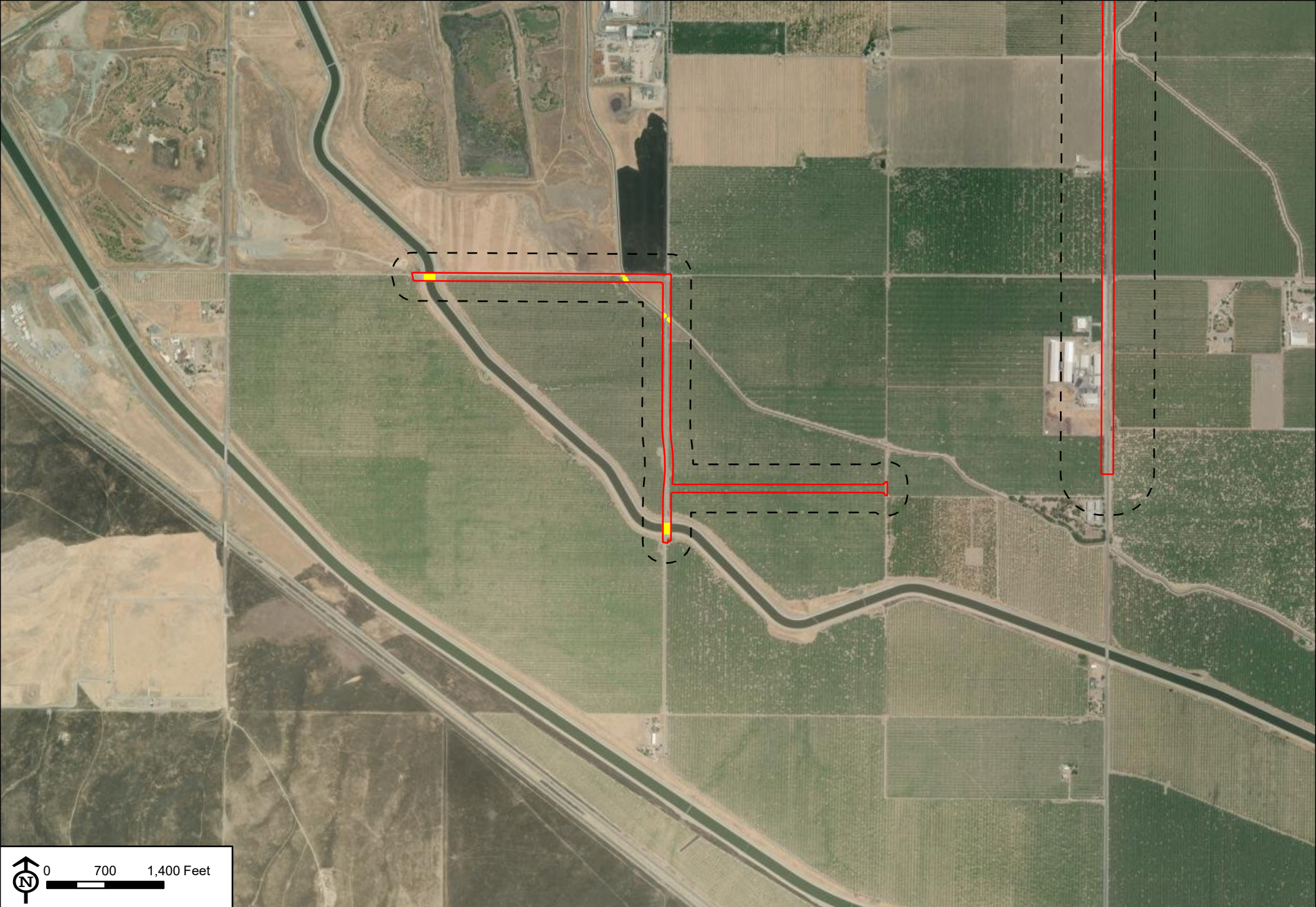
Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
 Aquatic Resources

Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
 Project - Chrisman Road*



Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (6/2024)



 Project Site
 Study Area

Potentially Jurisdictional
Aquatic Resources

 Canal
 Roadside Ditch
 Wetland

Figure 5 Aquatic Resources

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*



Plants

A total of 59 plant taxa were detected during the field surveys. A list of all plant taxa detected during the field surveys is provided in **Appendix B**.

The desktop review found that 13 plant taxa with special-status had been documented as occurring within the Regional Area. These taxa and their potential for occurrence on-site are summarized below and presented in **Appendix C**.

- No special-status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Present** in the Study Area.
- No special-status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **High** potential for occurrence in the
- No special-status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **Moderate** potential for occurrence in the Study Area.
- Five special-status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Not Expected to Occur** in the Study Area, which are presented below.



Delta Button Celery

Apiaceae > *Eryngium racemosum*

FESA: None, CESA: Yes, CRPR 1B.1, SJMSCP Covered Species

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb, which blooms June-October

Habitat Requirements: Freshwater wetlands and vernal mesic clay depressions, often associated with riparian scrub at elevations ranging from 10 to 100 feet AMSL.

Inclusion Source(s): CNPS, SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: None

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Soils Present: Unknown

Determination Reason: The Project site contains wetland areas however, this habitat is unlikely to support this species due to substantial disturbance associated with the proximity to Highway 132. Given the isolated areas where this species might occur, this species would have been detected during the survey, if present. However, no individual plants were observed during either site visit, one of which was conducted within the blooming period. This species is considered locally extirpated.



Diamond-petaled California poppy

Papaveraceae > *Eschscholzia rhombipetala*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.1, SJMSCP Covered Species

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms March-April

Habitat Requirements: Valley grassland at elevations ranging from 0 to 3200 feet AMSL.

Inclusion Source(s): CNPS

Nearest CNDDDB Record: None

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Soils Present: Yes. Clay soils are present in the Study Area.



Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland with clay soils along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, but the grassland area is minimal and heavily disturbed, and the species may be outcompeted for space by non-native grassland species. Additionally, the closest records are greater than five miles from the Project site.

☛ **Caper-fruited tropidocarpum**

Brassicaceae > *Tropidocarpum capparideum*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.1

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms March-April

Habitat Requirements: Valley and foothill grassland at elevations ranging from 5 to 1,495 feet AMSL.

Inclusion Source(s): CNPS

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 0.51 miles west

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Soils Present: Unknown

Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road however, this habitat is minimal and heavily disturbed, and the species may be outcompeted for space by non-native grassland species. Additionally, there are no recent records of this species within five miles of the Project site.

☛ **Big Tarplant**

Asteraceae > *Blepharizonia plumosa*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.1

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms July-October

Habitat Requirements: Valley and foothill grassland at elevations ranging from 100 to 1,655 feet AMSL.

Microhabitat: Clay (usually)

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB, CNPS

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 0.5 miles west

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Soils Present: Unknown

Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland with clay soils, but the grassland area along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road is minimal, heavily disturbed, and the species may be outcompeted for space by non-native grassland species. Unmanaged grassland areas are not large enough to support a potential population. Big tarplant occurs only in a few highly restricted populations.

☛ **Showy Golden Madia**

Asteraceae > *Madia radiata*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.1

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms March-May



Habitat Requirements: Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland at elevations ranging from 80 to 3,985 feet AMSL.
Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB, CNPS
Nearest CNDDDB Record: 3.95 miles west
Habitat Present: Low Quality
Soils Present: Unknown
Determination Reason: This species is known to inhabit grasslands and oak woodlands with clay soils. Oak woodlands are not present within the Project site to support this species. Although the Project site contains annual grassland along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, the grassland area is minimal, heavily disturbed, and the species may be outcompeted for space by non-native grassland species.

- The following four (4) special-status plant taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **No** potential for occurrence and are **Presumed Absent** in the Study Area.



Slough Thistle

Asteraceae > *Cirsium crassicaule*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.1

California Endemic: True
Growth Habit: Annual/perennial herb blooms May-August
Habitat Requirements: Chenopod scrub, Marshes and swamps, Riparian scrub at elevations ranging from 10 to 330 feet AMSL.
Inclusion Source(s): CNPS, SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: None
Habitat Present: Not Present
Soils Present: No
Determination Reason: The Project site does not contain chenopod or riparian scrub wetlands to support this species. Although wetlands were present, they were dry during the time of the survey and lacked wet soils necessary to support the species. Additionally, there are no recent records of this species within five miles of the Project site.



Mt. Hamilton Coreopsis

Asteraceae > *Leptosyne hamiltonii*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 1B.2

California Endemic: True
Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms March-May
Habitat Requirements: Cismontane woodland at elevations ranging from 1,805 to 4,265 feet AMSL.
Inclusion Source(s): CNPS, SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: None
Habitat Present: Not Present
Soils Present: Unknown
Determination Reason: This species is known to grow on slopes on dry, rocky soils within foothill woodlands. The Project site lacks the elevation and foothill woodlands present to support this



species. Additionally, there are no recent records of this species within five miles of the Project site.



Large-flowered Fiddleneck

Boraginaceae > *Amsinckia grandiflora*

FESA: Federal Endangered, CESA: California Endangered, CRPR 1B.1

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Annual herb blooms (March)April-May

Habitat Requirements: Cismontane woodland, Valley and foothill grassland at elevations ranging from 885 to 1,805 feet AMSL.

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDB, CNPS, IPaC

CNDDB Records: 1

Nearest CNDDB Record: 3.93 miles west

Habitat Present: Not Present

Soils Present: Unknown

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks cismontane woodland, and the annual grassland on-site is minimal, heavily disturbed, and the species may be outcompeted for space by non-native grassland species. Additionally, the Project site is located at elevations below the minimum 885 feet to support this species.

Wright's trichocoronis

Asteraceae > *Trichocoronis wrightii* var. *wrightii*

FESA: None, CESA: None, CRPR 2B.1

California Endemic: True

Growth Habit: Perennial herb blooms April-June

Habitat Requirements: Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps, riparian forest, vernal pools at elevations ranging from 15 to 1,425 feet AMSL.

Microhabitat Alkaline

Inclusion Source(s): CNPS

Nearest CNDDB Record: None

Habitat Present: Not Present

Soils Present: Unknown

Determination Reason: Project site lacks suitable meadows and seeps, riparian forest, vernal pools to support this species. The Project site contains freshwater emergent wetlands however, this habitat is unlikely to support this species due to substantial disturbance associated with the proximity to Highway 132. This species is considered locally extirpated.

Wildlife

A total of 16 wildlife taxa were detected during the field surveys. A list of all wildlife taxa detected during the field surveys is provided in **Appendix B**.



The desktop review determined that 41 wildlife taxa with special-status had been documented as occurring within the Regional Area. These taxa and their occurrence potential are discussed below and summarized in **Appendix C**.

- No special-status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Present** in the Study Area.
- No special-status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to have **High** potential for occurrence in the Study Area.
- No special-status wildlife taxon from desktop analysis was determined to have **Moderate** potential for occurrence in the Study Area.
- The following 8 special-status wildlife taxa from the desktop analysis were determined to be **Not Expected to Occur** in the Study Area.

California Glossy Snake

Colubridae > *Arizona elegans occidentalis*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: This snake is common throughout southern California especially in desert regions. Less common to the north, Glossy Snakes occur in the interior Coast Ranges as far as Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County. Glossy Snakes are most common in desert habitats but also occur in chaparral, sagebrush, valley-foothill hardwood, pine-juniper, and annual grass. Elevation from below sea level to 1,830 meters (6,000 feet AMSL). *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDB

Nearest CNDDB Record: 2.53 miles southwest

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Determination Reason: The Project Site lacks desert environments preferred by this snake. However, the Project site does contain annual grassland habitat along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, but the grassland area is marginal and heavily disturbed. Preferred foraging is typically limited to mostly desert lizard species and thus, the Project site is unlikely to provide suitable foraging habitat.

San Joaquin Coachwhip

Colubridae > *Coluber flagellum ruddocki*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: San Joaquin coachwhip snakes are diurnal animals and prefer warm temperatures. As a result, they emerge from estivation late in the season (April - May). This species prefers dry, open, treeless habitats including valley grassland and salt scrub. They are known to avoid dense vegetation that restricts movement such as mixed oak chaparral woodland. Small mammal burrows are used for overwintering. *Source: Thomson, Robert C., Amber N. Wright, and H. Bradley Shaffer. (2016). California Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. University of California Press.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDB

Nearest CNDDB Record: 2.12 miles west

Habitat Present: Low Quality



Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, but the grassland area is marginal, heavily disturbed, and does not contain the preferred open habitat to support this species. The Project site is primarily comprised of disturbed roadways and lacks natural open habitat preferred by this species.

 Great Blue Heron

Ardeidae > *Ardea herodias*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: The Great Blue Heron is fairly common all year throughout most of California, in shallow estuaries and fresh and saline emergent wetlands. Less common along riverine and rocky marine shores, in croplands, pastures, and in mountains above foothills. Common July to October in salt ponds where fish are numerous. Locally common near rookeries February to June or July. Few rookeries are found in southern California, but many are scattered throughout northern California; knowledge of their locations is incomplete. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: >5 miles

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Determination Reason: The Project site contains small, heavily disturbed wetland areas at the intersection of Vernalis Road and South Bird Road that are unlikely to support the insects, reptiles, and small mammals relied upon by this species for foraging. Additionally, these wetlands are fed from stormwater runoff from the surrounding roadways resulting in insufficient water quality; however, during the survey, these areas were observed to be dry, further limiting the potential for foraging. Nesting habitat in the form of isolated islands, channel markers, or artificial nest structures are not present within the Project site and thus, nesting is unlikely. Additionally, the nearest record is greater than five miles from the Project site.

 Great Egret

Ardeidae > *Ardea alba*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: The Great Egret is a common yearlong resident throughout California, except for high mountains and deserts. Feeds and rests in fresh, and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow-moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures. Nests in large trees, and roosts in trees. In southern California, common all year, and breeds at Salton Sea and Colorado River. Fairly common in coastal lowlands September to April, rare in summer, and breeds in Riverside County (one small colony). Rare to uncommon in deserts, occurring mainly as a spring migrant. In northern California, fairly common to common yearlong in coastal lowlands, inland valleys, and the Central Valley. Locally abundant March to July near the larger nesting colonies. Uncommon to fairly common March to August on the northeastern plateau, and nests locally. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*



Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: >5 miles
Habitat Present: Low Quality
Determination Reason: The Project site contains small, heavily disturbed wetland areas at the intersection of Vernalis Road and South Bird Road that are unlikely to support the insects, reptiles, and small mammals relied upon by this species for foraging. Additionally, these wetlands are fed from stormwater runoff from the surrounding roadways resulting in insufficient water quality; however, during the survey, these areas were observed to be dry, further limiting the potential for foraging. Nesting habitat in the form of isolated islands, channel markers, or artificial nest structures are not present within the Project site and thus, nesting is unlikely. Additionally, the nearest record is greater than five miles from the Project site.



Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipitridae > *Accipiter striatus*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: Fairly common migrant and winter resident throughout California, except in areas with deep snow. Breeding distribution poorly documented. Very few breeding records for Cascades/Sierra Nevada. Probably breeds south in Coast Ranges to about 35 degrees latitude, and at scattered locations in the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges. May no longer breed in the southern Sierra Nevada. Uncommon winter migrant to Channel Islands. Uncommon permanent resident and breeder in mid-elevation habitats. Breeds in ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer, and Jeffrey pine habitats. Prefers, but not restricted to, riparian habitats. North facing slopes, with plucking perches are critical requirements. All habitats except alpine, open prairie, and bare desert used in winter. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: None

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Determination Reason: This species prefers wooded areas throughout their range but may also forage within agricultural fields. The Project site contains marginal strips of agricultural fields adjacent to South Chrisman Road that may provide marginal foraging habitat to support this species. Tall, densely populated trees within woodlands are required for nesting and are not present within the Project site thus, nesting is unlikely. Additionally, the nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site.



Cooper's Hawk

Accipitridae > *Accipiter cooperii*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: A breeding resident throughout most of the wooded portion of the state. Breeds in southern Sierra Nevada foothills, New York Mountains, Owens Valley, and other local areas in southern California. Ranges from sea level to above 2,700 meters (0-9,000 feet AMSL). Dense stands of live oak, riparian deciduous, or other forest habitats near water used most frequently. *Source: California Department of Fish*



and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: None
Habitat Present: Low Quality
Determination Reason: The Project site is adjacent to marginally suitable foraging habitat, but lacks the tall trees preferred for nesting.

Burrowing Owl

Strigidae > *Athene cunicularia*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: A yearlong resident of open, dry grassland and desert habitats, and in grass, forb and open shrub stages of Pinyon-Juniper and Ponderosa Pine habitats. Formerly common in appropriate habitats throughout the state, excluding the humid northwest coastal forests and high mountains. Numbers markedly reduced in recent decades. Present on the larger offshore islands. Found as high as 1,600 meters (5,300 feet AMSL) in Lassen County. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB; SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: One adult owl was observed utilizing a previous ground squirrel burrow approximately 0.3 mile from the Project site, located adjacent to agricultural fields and railroad tracks.
Habitat Present: Low Quality
Determination Reason: Suitable habitat occurs in the southwest corner of the Project site at the corner of Highway 132 and Chrisman Road in grasslands where small mammal burrows are present. The potential habitat is a small (approximately 100-foot wide) disturbed strip of grassland along the paved roadway. While burrowing owls are known to occupy small areas surrounded by development, there are several more suitable options (open undisturbed grasslands) outside of the Project site.

San Joaquin Kit Fox

Canidae > *Vulpes macrotis mutica*

FESA: Endangered, CESA: Threatened, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: The San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) is the smallest fox in North America, with an average body length of 20 inches and weight of about 5 pounds. Kit Foxes start breeding when they are one year old. In the fall, females begin to clean and enlarge their pupping dens. The foxes mate between December and March. Females give birth to from two to six pups in February or March. The Kit Fox's range in the San Joaquin Valley extends from southern Kern County north to Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Joaquin counties on the western side of the valley; and to the La Grange area of Stanislaus County on the eastern side of the valley. The Kit Fox's range also includes valleys along the Coast Range including the Panoche and Cuyama valleys and the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County. Threats include habitat modification and destruction, energy development, drought, disease or pathogens, rodenticides, and predation. *Source: <https://www.fws.gov/species/san-joaquin-kit-fox-vulpes-macrotis-mutica>*



Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB; IPaC; SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: One record is located within the Project site near the Western Pacific Railroad along West Linne Road.

Habitat Present: Low Quality

Determination Reason: Suitable habitat occurs in the southwest corner of the Project site at the corner of Highway 132 and Chrisman Road in a disturbed grassland area where small mammal burrows are present. However, the Project site lacks the habitat to support foraging by this species. No sign of the presence of this species was observed during the field visits. This species may occur as a transient.

- The following 33 special-status wildlife taxa from desktop analysis were determined to be **Presumed Absent** from the Project site. These species are listed in **Appendix C**.



Loggerhead Shrike

Laniidae > *Lanius*

ludovicianus

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: A common resident and winter visitor in lowlands and foothills throughout California. Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. Highest density occurs in open-canopied valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, valley foothill riparian, pinyon-juniper, juniper, desert riparian, and Joshua Tree habitats. In the Great Basin, from Inyo County north, population declines markedly from November through March. Rare on coastal slope north of Mendocino County, occurring only in winter. Occurs only rarely in heavily urbanized areas, but often found in open cropland. Sometimes uses edges of denser habitats. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP, CNDDDB

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 4.25 miles northeast

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site does not contain scattered vegetation with open canopy that is preferred by this species. Additionally, thorny vegetation is not present within the Project site to support nesting for this species. The nearest record of this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

Cerambycidae > *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*

FESA: Threatened, CESA: None

Life History: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is a medium sized beetle that is endemic to the Central Valley of California. The beetle is found only in association with its host plant, elderberry (*Sambucus spp.*) and originally occurred in elderberry thickets in moist valley oak woodland along the margins of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers in the Central Valley of California. The habitat of this insect has now largely disappeared throughout much of its former range due to agricultural conversion, levee construction, and stream channelization. The clearing of undergrowth (including elderberry) and planting of lawns has



	resulted in further habitat degradation. <i>Source:</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850
Inclusion Source(s):	CNDDDB, IPaC; SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	4.17 miles southwest
Habitat Present:	Not Present
Determination Reason:	The Project site lacks the valley elderberry plants to support this species. Additionally, the Project site is located outside of the range for this species due to the Project site being located upland from the San Joaquin River.

Monarch - California Overwintering Population

Nymphalidae > *Danaus plexippus pop. 1*

FESA: Candidate, CESA: None

Life History: The iconic black and orange Monarch butterfly is known for its astonishing long-distance annual migration and reliance on milkweed as its obligate larval host plant. Though genetically similar, there are two subpopulations of Monarchs in North America, with the eastern population overwintering in Mexico and breeding in the midwestern states, and the western population overwintering in coastal California and fanning out across the west from Arizona to Idaho. Both North American migratory populations have declined over the past twenty years due to a suite of interrelated factors including habitat loss in breeding and overwintering sites, habitat degradation, disease, pesticide exposure, and climate change. Recently the western population has experienced dramatic swings, for a low of less than 2,000 in 2020-21 to over 200,000 in 2021-22. While it is unclear which of the many factors are driving these dynamics, insect population commonly fluctuate from year to year. Though more research is needed, a stable population for western monarchs is likely closer to the historic averages in the 1980's, which are estimated to have ranged between one to four million overwintering butterflies. *Source:*
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invertebrates/Monarch-Butterfly>

Inclusion Source(s):	IPaC
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	> 5 miles
Habitat Present:	Low Quality
Determination Reason:	As a migratory species with flight capability, this species has potential to occur anywhere during movements. There is low potential to be resident on-site due to agricultural land uses and lack of suitable milkweed host plants. The Project site is also not located in roosting habitat for this species. The nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site.

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog

Ranidae > *Rana draytonii*

FESA: Threatened, CESA: None, California Species of Special Concern

Life History: The foothill yellow-legged frog occurs in the Coast Ranges from the Oregon border south to the Transverse Mountains in Los Angeles County, in most of northern California west of the Cascade crest, and along the western flank of the Sierra south to Kern County. Livezey reported an isolated population in San



Joaquin County. on the floor of the Central Valley. Isolated populations are also known from the mountains of Los Angeles County. Its elevation range extends from near sea level to 1940 m (6370 ft) in the Sierra. The foothill yellow-legged frog is found in or near rocky streams in a variety of habitats, including valley-foothill hardwood, valley-foothill hardwood-conifer, valley-foothill riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, and wet meadow types. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s):	IPaC
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	>5 miles
Habitat Present:	Not Present
Determination Reason:	Project site lacks rocky streams, forested riparian areas, and ponds preferred by this species for breeding. Although the Project site does contain small heavily disturbed wetlands, all were observed to be dry during the survey and would not support this species. There are no recent record of this species within five miles from the Project site.

**California Red-legged Frog**Ranidae > *Rana draytonii*

FESA: Threatened, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: The California red-legged frog inhabits quiet pools of streams, marshes, and occasionally ponds. Occurs along the Coast Ranges from Mendocino County south and in portions of the Sierra Nevada and Cascades ranges, usually below 1200 m (3936 ft). This species was once a subspecies of *Rana aurora*, then known as the Red-legged Frog, and has been elevated to species-level status. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s):	CNDDDB
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	4.20 Miles west
Habitat Present:	Not Present
Determination Reason:	Although the Project site does contain small heavily disturbed wetlands, all were observed to be dry during the survey and would not support this species. Additionally, the wetlands are located along noisy Vernalis Road and South Bird Road, fed from stormwater runoff from resulting in insufficient water quality

**Western Spadefoot**Scaphiopodidae > *Spea hammondi*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern



Life History: The Western Spadefoot ranges throughout the Central Valley and adjacent foothills, and is usually quite common where it occurs. In the Coast Ranges it is found from Point Conception, Santa Barbara County, south to the Mexican border. Elevations of occurrence extend from near sea level to 1363 m (4460 ft) in the southern Sierra foothills. This species occurs primarily in grasslands, but occasional populations also occur in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Some populations persist for a few years in orchard or vineyard habitats. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 4.71 miles west

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, but the grassland area is marginal, heavily disturbed, and contains dense vegetation that is not suitable for western spadefoot. Additionally, the orchards and vineyards are regularly maintained, and human disturbance is common within these areas. The Project site is not an identified breeding site for western spadefoot.



California Tiger Salamander

Ambystomatidae > *Ambystoma californiense*

FESA: Endangered, CESA: Endangered

Life History: Most commonly found in Annual Grassland habitat, but also occurs in the grassy understory of Valley-Foothill Hardwood habitats, and uncommonly along stream courses in Valley-Foothill Riparian habitats. The species occurs from near Petaluma, Sonoma County, east through the Central Valley to Yolo and Sacramento counties and south to Tulare County; and from the vicinity of San Francisco Bay south to Santa Barbara County. They occur at elevations from 3 meters up to 1,054 meters (3,200 feet AMSL). *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB, IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 2.49 miles southwest

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site contains annual grassland along South Chrisman and Vernalis Road, but the grassland area is marginal and heavily disturbed. The Project site is more than two miles from known breeding ponds. With the exception of one paved intersection, Interstate 580 serves a barrier between the Project site and known breeding sites to the west.



Coast Horned Lizard

Phrynosomatidae > *Phrynosoma blainvillii*



FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: Blainville's Horned Lizard is uncommon to common in suitable habitat. Occurs in valley-foothill hardwood, conifer and riparian habitats, as well as in pine-cypress, juniper and annual grassland habitats. Occurs in the Sierra Nevada foothills from Butte County to Kern County and throughout the central and southern California coast. Its elevational range extends up to 1200 m (4000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada foothills and up to 1800 m (6000 ft) in the mountains of southern California. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the riparian and forested habitat preferred by this species for breeding and foraging. This species may also forage in open grassland areas with sandy soils and, although grassland habitat occurs within the Project site, this area lacks bare ground and sandy soils required to support this species.



Northwestern Pond Turtle

Emydidae > *Actinemys marmorata*

FESA: Proposed Threatened, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: *Actinemys* species are uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California, west of the Sierra-Cascade crest and absent from desert regions, except in the Mojave Desert along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Elevation range extends from near sea level to 1,430 meters (4,690 feet AMSL). Associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitat types. Western Pond Turtle was split into two species in 2014, with *A. marmorata* ranging from the Central Valley north. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB; IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB Record: 3.00 miles southwest

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks suitable aquatic habitat to support this species. The existing wetland areas surveyed on the Project site are heavily disturbed, located alongside busy roadways, and lack a consistent source of water to support this species. Additionally, upland refugia necessary to support nesting is lacking within the surrounding areas. Canals flowing through the Project site are concrete-lined with steep sides that could not be utilized by this species.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo



Cuculidae > *Coccyzus americanus*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: An uncommon to rare summer resident of valley foothill and desert riparian habitats in scattered locations in California. Along the Colorado River, breeding population on California side was estimated at 180 pairs in 1977. Additional pairs reside in the Sacramento and Owens valleys; along the South Fork of the Kern River, Kern County; along the Santa Ana River, Riverside County; and along the Amargosa River, Inyo and San Bernardino counties. Also may nest along San Luis Rey River, San Diego County. Formerly much more common and widespread throughout lowland California, but numbers drastically reduced by habitat loss. Current population estimations show about 50 pairs existing in California. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks suitable riverine habitat to support nesting or foraging for this species. The Project site is also not located along any of the rivers where this species is known to occur. The nearest record of this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Long-Billed Curlew

Scolopacidae > *Numenius americanus*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: An uncommon to fairly common breeder from April to September in wet meadow habitat in northeastern California in Siskiyou, Modoc, and Lassen counties. One recent nesting record for Owens Valley, Inyo County. Uncommon to locally very common as a winter visitant from early July to early April along most of the California coast, and in the Central and Imperial valleys, where the largest flocks occur. Preferred winter habitats include large coastal estuaries, upland herbaceous areas, and croplands. On estuaries, feeding occurs mostly on intertidal mudflats. Small numbers of nonbreeders remain on coast in summer, and larger numbers remain in some years in the Central Valley. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the wet meadow, coastal estuary, or intertidal mudflat habitat preferred by this species for nesting and foraging. Additionally, the nearest record for this species is located



greater than five miles from the Project site and it is not expected to occur.



California Condor

Cathartidae > *Gymnogyps californianus*

FESA: Endangered, Protected, CESA: Endangered

Life History: Endangered, permanent resident of the semi-arid, rugged mountain ranges surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the Coast Ranges from Santa Clara County south to Los Angeles County, the Transverse Ranges, Tehachapi Mountains, and southern Sierra Nevada. Forages over wide areas of open rangelands, roosts on cliffs and in large trees and snags. Occurs mostly between sea-level and 2700 m (0-9000 ft), and nests from 610-1372 m (2000-6500 ft). Nonbreeding individuals move north to Kern and Tulare counties in April, often returning south in September to winter in Tehachapi Mountains, Mount Pinos, and Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Total population in early 1980's estimated to be fewer than 20, and declining. Occurrence in the wild now in question. Two U.S. Forest Service sanctuaries set aside within the Los Padres National Forest, primarily for nesting and roosting protection. *California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the open rangelands and rugged mountain habitats preferred by this species for foraging. The Project site is below the preferred elevations for nesting and thus, is not expected to occur. The nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Osprey

Pandionidae > *Pandion haliaetus*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: Breeds in northern California from Cascade Ranges south to Lake Tahoe, and along the coast south to Marin County. Regular breeding sites include Shasta Lake, Eagle Lake, Lake Almanor, other inland lakes and reservoirs, and northwest river systems. Breeding population estimated in 1975 at 350-400 pairs in northern California; numbers apparently increasing in recent years. An uncommon breeder along southern Colorado River, and uncommon winter visitor along the coast of southern California. Associated strictly with large, fish-bearing waters, primarily in ponderosa pine through mixed conifer habitats. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*



Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the proximity to lacustrine, riverine, or pelagic habitats preferred by this species for foraging. Additionally, the Project site also lacks the tall trees preferred by this species for nesting. The nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Northern Harrier

Accipitridae > *Circus hudsonius*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History: Occurs from annual grassland up to lodgepole pine and alpine meadow habitats, as high as 3,000 m (10,000 ft). Breeds from sea level to 1,700 m (0-5,700 ft) in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada, and up to 800 m (3,600 ft) in northeastern California. Frequents meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands; seldom found in wooded areas. Permanent resident of the northeastern plateau and coastal areas; less common resident of the Central Valley. Widespread winter resident and migrant in suitable habitat. California population has decreased in recent decades but can be locally abundant where suitable habitat remains free of disturbance, especially from intensive agriculture. Breeding population much reduced, especially in southern coastal district. Destruction of wetland habitat, native grassland, and moist meadows, and burning and plowing of nesting areas during early stages of breeding cycle, are major reasons for the decline. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site contains minimal foraging habitat in the form of marginal grasslands and agricultural fields along the edges of the Project site. Nesting habitat is located around the isolated wetlands and grasslands, but these habitats are only marginally suitable within the Project site due to the small extent and extensive human disturbance in these areas. The nearest record of this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Swainson's Hawk

Accipitridae > *Buteo swainsoni*

FESA: None, CESA: Threatened, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: Uncommon breeding resident and migrant in the Central Valley, Klamath Basin, Northeastern Plateau, Lassen County, and Mojave Desert. Very limited breeding reported from Lanfair Valley, Owens Valley, Fish Lake Valley, and Antelope Valley. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the



Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grasslands or suitable grain or alfalfa fields, or livestock pastures. In southern California, now mostly limited to spring and fall transient. Formerly abundant in California with wider breeding range. Decline resulted in part from loss of nesting habitat. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB; SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: 0.39 miles east
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site contains marginal open foraging habitat in agricultural fields along the edges of the Project site that could support this species however, no trees of suitable height or riparian areas are present within the Project site to support nesting for this species.



Merlin

Falconidae > *Falco columbarius*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: Uncommon winter migrant from September to May. Seldom found in heavily wooded areas, or open deserts. Frequents coastlines, open grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, lakes, wetlands, edges, and early successional stages. Ranges from annual grasslands to ponderosa pine and montane hardwood-conifer habitats. Occurs in most of the western half of the state below 1500 m (3900 ft). A rare winter migrant in the Mojave Desert; a few records from the Channel Islands. Numbers have declined markedly in California in recent decades. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the forested openings and riverine habitats preferred by this species for foraging. Additionally, the Project site also lacks the tall trees preferred by this species for nesting. The nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.



Least Bell's Vireo

Vireonidae > *Vireo bellii pusillus*

FESA: Endangered, CESA: Endangered

Life History: Formerly a common and widespread summer resident below about 600 m (2000 ft) in western Sierra Nevada, throughout Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, and in the coastal valleys and foothills from Santa Clara County south. Also was common in coastal southern California from Santa Barbara County south, below about 1200 m (4000 ft) east of the Sierra Nevada, in Owens and Benton valleys, along Mojave River and other streams at western edge of southeastern deserts, and along entire length of Colorado River. Has declined drastically or vanished entirely throughout California range in recent



decades, apparently from cowbird parasitism and habitat destruction and degradation. Now a rare, local, summer resident below about 600 m (2000 ft) in willows and other low, dense valley foothill riparian habitat and lower portions of canyons mostly in San Benito and Monterey counties; in coastal southern California from Santa Barbara County south; and along the western edge of the deserts in desert riparian habitat. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDDB
Nearest CNDDDB Record: 4.62 miles west
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site lacks suitable dense riparian habitat and streams to support this species. This species is considered locally extirpated.

**Horned Lark**Alaudidae > *Eremophila alpestris*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: The Horned Lark is a common to abundant resident in a variety of open habitats, usually where trees and large shrubs are absent. Found from grasslands along the coast and deserts near sea level to alpine dwarf-shrub habitat above treeline. Less common in mountain regions, on the North Coast, and in coniferous or chaparral habitats. Mostly leaves mountains in winter, but small flocks may remain to winter on windswept, snow-free areas at high elevations in the Sierra Nevada. In winter, flocks in desert lowlands and other areas augmented by winter visitants, many migrating from outside the state. Resident on the Channel Islands. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Horned Lark prefers grassland areas with vegetation less than two inches in height or bare ground for nesting and foraging habitat, which is lacking within the Project site. Therefore, nesting and foraging by this species is not expected to occur in the Project site. Additionally, the nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.

**Yellow-breasted Chat**Icteriidae > *Icteria virens*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern; SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: An uncommon summer resident and migrant in coastal California and in foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Found up to about 1,450 meters (4,800 feet AMSL) in valley foothill riparian, and up to 2,050 meters (6,500 feet AMSL)



east of the Sierra Nevada in desert riparian habitats. Uncommon along coast of northern California east to Cascades and occurs only locally south of Mendocino County. In southern California, breeds locally on the coast and very locally inland. In migration, may be found in lower elevations of mountains in riparian habitat. Numbers much reduced in recent decades. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP
CNDDB Records: 0
Nearest CNDDB Record: None
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site does not contain valley foothill or desert riparian habitat to support this species. The wetland areas present on the Project site do not contain adequate vegetation to support yellow-breasted chat. Additionally, the nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site.



Tricolored Blackbird

Icteridae > *Agelaius tricolor*

FESA: None, CESA: Threatened, Species of Special Concern; SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: Mostly a resident in California. Common locally throughout Central Valley and in coastal districts from Sonoma County south. Breeds near fresh water, preferably in emergent wetland with tall, dense cattails or tules, but also in thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose, tall herbs. Feeds in grassland and cropland habitats. Breeds locally in northeastern California. In winter, becomes more widespread along central coast and San Francisco Bay area and is found in portions of the Colorado Desert. Numbers appear to be declining in California. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): CNDDB; SJMSCP
CNDDB Records: 1
Nearest CNDDB Record: One record is located within the Project site along the intersection of South Chrisman Road and West 11th street.
Habitat Present: Not Present
Determination Reason: The Project site contains small, marginally suitable wetlands along Vernalis Road and South Bird Road to support this species; however, these areas in close proximity to the roadways are heavily disturbed. Tricolored blackbirds are not expected to occur due to the lack of tall, undisturbed cattails or tules. Additionally, the wetlands present on-site were observed to be dry during the field observations and are unlikely to support this species.



Yuma Myotis

Vespertilionidae > *Myotis yumanensis*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History: The Yuma Myotis is common and widespread in California. It is uncommon in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions,



except for the mountain ranges bordering the Colorado River Valley. Found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from sea level to 3300 m (11,000 ft), but it is uncommon to rare above 2560 m (8000 ft). Optimal habitats are open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the open forest and woodland habitats preferred by this species for foraging. Additionally, there were few manmade structures present within the Project site that would support this species, but regular human disturbance around these buildings may preclude bats from these structures. Roosting sites are not expected to occur within the Project site. The nearest record of this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and it is not expected to occur.

**Western Red Bat**Vespertilionidae > *Lasiurus blossevillei*

FESA: None, CESA: Species of Special Concern; SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History:

The Western Red Bat is locally common in some areas of California, occurring from Shasta County to the Mexican border, west of the Sierra Nevada/Cascade crest and deserts. The winter range includes western lowlands and coastal regions south of San Francisco Bay. There is migration between summer and winter ranges, and migrants may be found outside the normal range. Day-roost habitat is primarily among the foliage of trees such as willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores in forests and woodlands from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, shrublands, open woodlands and forests, and croplands. Forages on a variety of insects. Not found in desert areas. During warm months, sexes occupy different portions of the range. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.* *Western Bat Working Group. 2005. Western Bat Species Accounts, <http://wbwg.org/western-bat-species/>*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present: Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site lacks the forested and woodland areas required for roosting habitat for this species. The western red bat feeds over open grassland area, which exists within the Project site along South Chrisman Road, but is marginal and disturbed. There were no visible signs of bats



(i.e. scat or insect carcasses) observed during the surveys. Additionally, the nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and it is not expected to occur.

 Riparian Brush Rabbit

Leporidae > *Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*

FESA: Endangered, CESA: Endangered

Life History:

The riparian brush rabbit is a subspecies of the common brush rabbit. There are three known population centers for this species: Caswell Memorial Park, Lathrop, and the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, all in San Joaquin County. The riparian brush rabbit prefers riverine habitats with thickets of willow (*Salix spp.*), blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*), wild rose (*Rosa californica*), wild grape (*Vitis californica*), Douglas' coyote bush (*Baccharis douglasii*), and grasses for foraging and sheltering. Source: <https://www.fws.gov/species/riparian-brush-rabbit-sylvilagus-bachmani-riparius>

Inclusion Source(s):

CNDDDB, IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB Record:

1.36 miles east

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site lacks suitable riparian riverine habitats to support this species. Additionally, the Project site does not occur in the Caswell Memorial Park, Lathrop, or the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge and is, therefore, not expected to occur.

 Riparian Woodrat

Cricetidae > *Neotoma fuscipes riparia*

FESA: Threatened, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History:

The riparian woodrat is a subspecies of the dusky footed woodrat (*N. fuscipes*). As the name suggests, they prefer to build stick nests near rivers and streams in riparian woodland habitats. Historically, they were distributed along the San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne rivers. Today, there are only two known population centers: Caswell Memorial Park and the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, both in San Joaquin County. Source: <https://www.fws.gov/species/riparian-woodrat-san-joaquin-valley-neotoma-fuscipes-riparia>

Inclusion Source(s):

IPaC

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site lacks suitable riparian woodland habitat to support this species. Additionally, the Project site is located upland from the San Joaquin River and is not within either the Caswell Memorial Park or the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The nearest record is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.

 Ringtail

Procyonidae > *Bassariscus astutus*



FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP Covered Species

Life History:	Widely distributed, common to uncommon permanent resident. Occurs in various riparian habitats, and in brush stands of most forest and shrub habitats, at low to middle elevations. Little information available on distribution and relative abundance among habitats. <i>Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.</i>
Inclusion Source(s):	SJMSCP
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	> 5 miles
Habitat Present:	Not Present
Determination Reason:	The Project site lacks the riparian and forested habitat preferred by this species for nesting or foraging. Additionally, the nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and it is not expected to occur.

🦟 **Green sturgeon - southern DPS**

Acipenseridae > *Acipenser medirostris* pop. 1

FESA: Threatened, CESA: Species of Special Concern

Life History:	The Green Sturgeon (<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>) is an anadromous fish species that is long-lived and among the most marine oriented sturgeon species in the family Acipenseridae. NMFS has determined green sturgeon are comprised of at least two distinct population segments (DPSs): (1) A Northern DPS consisting of populations originating from coastal watersheds northward of and including the Eel River; and (2) a southern DPS consisting of populations originating from coastal watersheds south of the Eel River, with the only known spawning population in the Sacramento River. Adult Green Sturgeon spawn every 2-4 years. Adult Green Sturgeon begin spawning migrations in late February. Spawning occurs from March to July, with peak activity from mid-April to mid-June. Threats include loss of habitat and spawning grounds due to dams and diversions; habitat degradation from pollution, agricultural runoff, and dredging; and the loss of prey species from pesticide application. <i>Source: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2009/10/09/E9-24067/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-final-rulemaking-to-designate-critical-habitat.</i>
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Inclusion Source(s):	CNDDDB
Nearest CNDDDB Record:	2.26 miles east
Habitat Present:	Not Present
Determination Reason:	The Project site lacks open water in the form of rivers to support this species.

🦟 **Steelhead - Central Valley DPS**

Salmonidae > *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11

FESA: Threatened, CESA: Species of Special Concern

**Life History:**

Steelhead and rainbow trout are the same species. In general, steelhead refers to the anadromous form of the species. Steelhead typically migrate to marine waters after spending two years in fresh water. They reside in marine waters for typically two or three years prior to returning to their

natal stream to spawn as four- or five-year-olds. The Central Valley Distinct Population Segment, or DPS, includes naturally spawned anadromous *O. mykiss* (steelhead) originating below natural and manmade impassable barriers from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries; excludes such fish originating from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries. Main threats to this DPS include habitat degradation and destruction, blockage of freshwater habitats, water allocation problems, the pervasive opportunity for genetic introgression resulting from widespread production of hatchery steelhead and the potential ecological interaction between introduced stocks and native stocks.. *Source: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/endangered-species-conservation/sacramento-river-winter-run-chinook-salmon>*

Inclusion Source(s):

CNDDDB

Nearest CNDDDB Record:

2.05 miles east

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site lacks open water in the form of rivers to support this species.

**Longfin Smelt**

Osmeridae > *Spirinchus thaleichthys* pop. 2

FESA: Threatened, CESA: Endangered, Federal Threatened; California Endangered

Life History:

Longfin Smelt *Spirinchus thaleichthys* is a small fish in the family Osmeridae found along the Pacific coast of the United States from Alaska to California. In California, Longfin Smelt is historically found in the San Francisco Estuary and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta), Humboldt Bay, and the estuaries of the Eel River and Klamath River. Spawning occurs from November through May, with a peak from February through April. The causes of decline from northern estuaries are not clearly known, but they are probably similar to those of the Bay-Delta, which include: reduction in freshwater outflows, entrainment losses to water diversion, changes in food organisms, toxic substances, disease, competition, introduced species, and loss of genetic integrity.. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s):

CNDDDB

Nearest CNDDDB Record:

3.27 miles northeast

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site lacks open water in the form of rivers to support this species.



 Yellow Warbler

Parulidae > *Dendroica petechia brewsteri*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP-covered Species

Life History:

Breeding distribution includes from the coast range in Del Norte county, east to Modoc plateau, south along coast range to Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and along western slope of Sierra Nevada south to Kern county. Also breeds along eastern side of California from the Lake Tahoe area south through Inyo county. Also breeds in several southern California mountain ranges and throughout most of San Diego county. Winters in Imperial and Colorado river valleys. Breeds in riparian woodlands from coastal and desert lowlands up to 2500 m (8000 ft) in Sierra Nevada. Also breeds in montane chaparral, and in open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of brush. Numbers of breeding pairs have declined dramatically in recent decades in many lowland areas (southern coast, Colorado River, San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys). Now rare to uncommon in many lowland areas where formerly common. A common migrant on Channel and Farallon Islands in spring and fall. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s):

SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record:

> 5 miles

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason:

The Project site does not contain forested or riparian breeding habitat suitable to support this species thus, this species is not expected to occur on-site. Nesting sites occur within riparian vegetation as well and is not expected to occur within the Project site. The nearest record of this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected to occur.

 Black-crowned Night Heron

Ardeidae > *Nycticorax nycticorax*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP-covered Species

Life History:

The Black-crowned Night-Heron is a fairly common, yearlong resident in lowlands and foothills throughout most of California, including the Salton Sea and Colorado River areas, and very common locally in large nesting colonies. Feeds along the margins of lacustrine, large riverine, and fresh and saline emergent habitats and, rarely, on kelp beds in marine subtidal habitats. Nests and roosts in dense-foliaged trees and dense emergent wetlands. Common nesting species on northeastern plateau from April to August. Uncommon in northwestern, and rare in northeastern, California in midwinter. Uncommon transient and rare in winter in southern deserts, and rare on Channel Islands. Seldom seen in mountains, but formerly nested at Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino Mountains. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA.*

Inclusion Source(s):

SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDDB Record:

> 5 miles

Habitat Present:

Not Present



Determination Reason: The Project site does not contain suitable foraging habitat such as, large riverine and emergent habitat, and densely vegetated Marshes. Nesting habitat in trees or in dense cattails is also not present on the Project site and thus, nesting is not likely to occur. The nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and is not expected.



Western Red Bat

Vespertilionidae > *Lasiurus blossevillei*

FESA: None, CESA: None, SJMSCP-covered Species

Life History: The Western Red Bat is locally common in some areas of California, occurring from Shasta County to the Mexican border, west of the Sierra Nevada/Cascade crest and deserts. The winter range includes western lowlands and coastal regions south of San Francisco Bay. There is migration between summer and winter ranges, and migrants may be found outside the normal range. Day-roost habitat is primarily among the foliage of trees such as willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores in forests and woodlands from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Feeds over a wide variety of habitats including grasslands, shrublands, open woodlands and forests, and croplands. Forages on a variety of insects. Not found in desert areas. During warm months, sexes occupy different portions of the range. *Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Interagency Wildlife Task Group. 2014. CWHR version 9.0 personal computer program. Sacramento, CA. Western Bat Working Group. 2005. Western Bat Species Accounts, <http://wbwg.org/western-bat-species/>*

Inclusion Source(s): SJMSCP

Nearest CNDDB Record: > 5 miles

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination Reason: The Project site lacks the forested and woodland areas required for roosting habitat for this species. The western red bat feeds over open grassland area, which exists within the Project site to the north of Highway 132 and south of the California Aqueduct but is small in extent and no visible signs of bats (i.e. scat or insect carcasses) were observed during the surveys. Additionally, the nearest record for this species is located greater than five miles from the Project site and it is not expected to occur.



Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp

Branchinectidae > *Branchinecta lynchi*

FESA: Threatened, CESA: None

Life History: The Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp inhabits ephemeral pools with clear to tea-colored water. This species has been most commonly observed in grass or mud bottomed swales, earth sump, or basalt flow depression pools in unplowed grasslands. The Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp has been collected from early December to early May. The water in pools inhabited by this species has a pH averaging 7.0; and low TDS, conductivity, alkalinity, and chloride. Although the Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp is found at a number of sites, it is not abundant at any of them. It often occurs with other fairy shrimp species, but is never the numerically dominant one. *Source:*



<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1992-05-08/pdf/FR-1992-05-08.pdf#page=76>

Inclusion Source(s):

IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB

> 5 miles

Record:

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination

Reason:

The Project site lacks the vernal pool habitat to support this species. Ponded areas consist of heavily disturbed wetlands on-site, irregularly inundated and artificially drained. Given these non-natural conditions, these areas are unlikely to support this species, and this species is not expected to occur.

 Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

Triopsidae > *Lepidurus packardii*

FESA: Endangered, CESA: None

Life History:

Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp inhabits vernal pools and swales containing clear to highly turbid water. The Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp is found at 14 vernal pool complexes in the Sacramento Valley from the Vina Plains in Butte County south of the Sacramento area in Sacramento County and west to the Jepson Prairie region of Salano County. The pools inhabited by the Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp range in size from 5 square meters (16.4 square ft) in the Mather Air Force Base area of Sacramento County to the 38 hectare (89 acre) Olcott Lake at Jepson Prairie. The pools at Jepson Prairie and Vina Plains have a neutral pH, and very low conductivity, TDS, and alkalinity. These pools are most commonly located in grass bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands in old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan, or in mud- bottomed pools containing highly turbid water. All pools known to be inhabited by this species are filled by winter and spring rains and may last until June. Source: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1992-05-08/pdf/FR-1992-05-08.pdf#page=76>

Inclusion

Source(s):

IPaC

Nearest CNDDDB

> 5 miles

Record:

Habitat Present:

Not Present

Determination

Reason:

The Project site lacks the vernal pool habitat to support this species. Ponded areas consist of heavily disturbed wetlands on-site, irregularly inundated and artificially drained. Given these non-natural conditions, these areas are unlikely to support this species, and this species is not expected to occur.

Other Considerations

Wildlife Movement

The Project site is identified by the SJMSCP as part of the Central/Southwest Transition Zone, which was created to recognize historical records of the San Joaquin kit fox as a transient along the boundary between the Southwest Zone and the Central zone. The term “wildlife movement corridor” means an area of habitat that is important for the movement of wildlife between larger habitat areas. A known wildlife corridor, the Corral-Lower San Joaquin Wildlife Corridor, runs from the Corral Hollow Pass through the Southwest/Central Transition Zone, overlapping the Project site at the intersection of South Chrisman Road and West Linne Road (**Figure 6**). Although there is some slight overlap, the Project site itself does



not function as a movement corridor for terrestrial wildlife because it is primarily comprised of paved roadways and intersections which functionally serve as barriers to the movement of terrestrial wildlife outside of birds.

Nesting Birds

Birds, including native species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CFGC, have the potential to nest in nearly any environment, including those altered by anthropogenic activity. With respect to the Project site, the trees, grasslands, and shrubs on-site provide ample locations for potential nesting. The Project site lacks sufficiently tall trees but does contain manmade structures such as utility poles that provide potentially suitable nesting habitat for raptors or other large birds identified in the desktop and literature review. The aquatic features present within the Project site are heavily disturbed and are unlikely to support nesting, as the areas surrounding the aquatic features do not contain riparian vegetation and do not support the mature canopies that would provide suitable nesting habitat for larger wetland birds. No active nests or nesting behavior (e.g., carrying nest building material, carrying food to feed nestlings, territorial displays, etc.) was observed during the surveys; however, the biological surveys for the Project were conducted outside of nesting bird season (February 15 - August 31).

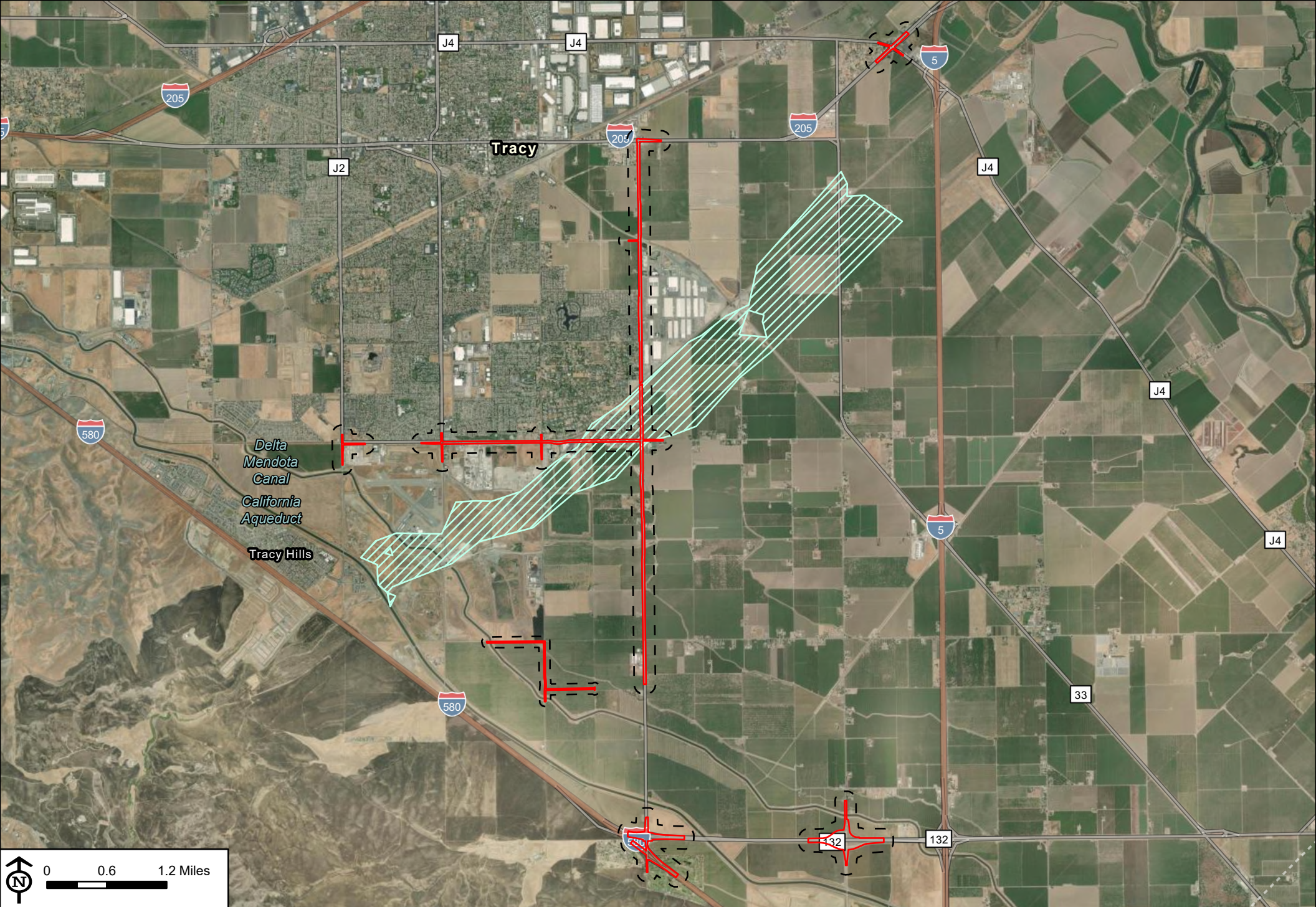


Figure 6 San Joaquin Wildlife Corridors

*Pacific Gateway Specific Plan
Project - Chrisman Road*

- Project Site
- Study Area
- Corral-Lower San Joaquin Wildlife Corridor

Source: ESRI ArcGIS Online Basemap - World Imagery Hybrid (06/2024)





Critical Habitat

The review of pertinent literature and data sources for the Project identified approximately 1.5 acres of critical habitat for Delta Smelt in the northeastern corner of the Project site. Due to the high-level and broad nature of these assessments and critical habitat mapping, the areas classified as critical habitat must be considered for their suitability to support the species. Because the portion of the Project site overlapping the Delta Smelt critical habitat is developed land that does not contain any open water or other aquatic features that could support Delta Smelt, there is no reasonable possibility that Delta Smelt would occur within the Project site.

Conclusion

The proposed Project would occur primarily on developed land consisting of roadways and disturbed roadside areas, as well as commercial, industrial, and residential properties. Along these roadways and intersections, the Project site contains marginal agricultural land, disturbed grassland, and ornamental vegetation in residential areas. The Project site does not contain any sensitive vegetation communities therefore, the Project is not expected to impact sensitive vegetation communities.

No special-status species were detected on-site during biological surveys for the Project. Furthermore, based on vegetation and habitats found on-site, no special-status plants or animals were determined to have at least moderate potential to occur. All special-status plants and animals evaluated for potential to occur in this report were determined to be “Not Expected” or “Presumed Absent”; thus, implementation of the Project is not anticipated to impact special-status plant or animal species.

The Project crosses multiple aquatic resources, including the Delta Mendota Canal, the California Aqueduct, the Lateral Five East Canal, an unnamed concrete-lined canal, and Corral Hollow Creek. Unlike the Lateral Five East Canal and the unnamed concrete-lined canal, which are not recognized by USACE, Corral Hollow creek, the California Aqueduct, and the Delta Mendota Canal are identified by the USACE Sacramento District as TNWs; thus, are considered potentially subject to regulation by USACE under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act as well as Section 404 of the CWA. Although not recognized as a TNW, the Lateral Five East Canal and the unnamed concrete-lined canal are presumed to not have a surface hydrologic connection to any downstream TNWs based on a review of aerial imagery and CARI (SFEI 2024); thus, are not considered waters of the U.S. and are not potentially subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA. In addition to these canals and creek, roadside ditches, seasonal wetland features, and a wetland swale feature were also observed at the Project site; however, these aquatic resource features were found to be isolated features and considered non-jurisdictional by USACE per current regulatory guidance defining waters of the U.S. Given that USACE makes the final determination on their jurisdictional authority, consultation with the USACE via submittal of an Approved Jurisdictional Determination request is recommended and may be required by the County to obtain concurrence as to the aquatic features identified on-site which would not be subject to USACE jurisdiction.

All of the aquatic resource features identified on-site were considered waters of the State, potentially regulated by the CVRWQCB. The CVRWQCB oversees water rights and regulates activities within waters of the State in the Central Valley per the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act when waters/wetlands are isolated; whereas, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act wetlands or waters of the State are also considered wetlands/waters of the U.S. by the USACE. For regulatory compliance with the Porter Cologne Act and Clean Water Act, the Project proponent/applicant would be required to apply for an individual Waste Discharge Permit with the CVRWQCB if the Project would impact isolated waters of the State, including wetlands. If the Project would impact aquatic resource features considered waters of the U.S under USACE regulation, consultation with the CVRWQCB for compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act via application for a 401 Certification would also be required.

Irrespective of permitting with the CVRWQCB or USACE, because a formal jurisdictional delineation was not conducted



for the Project, a formal jurisdictional delineation is recommended and may be required by these agencies, following USACE procedures and guidance, to confirm whether the aquatic features are considered wetland or non-wetland waters jurisdictional resources.

Additionally, all of the features identified on-site (except for the freshwater emergent wetlands) were found to contain a bed and bank. As a result, these features would be potentially subject to regulation by CDFW under Section 1600 of CFGC. To comply with this regulation, CDFW shall be notified via CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) notification procedures if the Project would alter the streambed or banks, impact riparian vegetation, disturb the natural flow, or deposit material into these features.

Project compliance with the CWA, Rivers and Harbors Act, Porter-Cologne Act, and CFGC would be required. Thus, prior to implementation of the Project and impacts to aquatic resources on-site, consultations with these USACE, CVRWQCB, and or CDFW would be needed, which may require one or more of the following permits and regulatory approvals:

- **USACE Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act Permitting and CWA 404 Permit:** Authorization for the dredge or fill of jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, must be secured prior to activities in jurisdictional waters or wetlands from the USACE through the CWA Section 404 permitting process. The USACE may select to process a joint 404/10 permit.
- **CVRWQCB CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification:** A water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA would be required by the CVRWQCB for impacts to any areas containing wetlands or waters of the State, which are also considered wetlands or waters of the U.S.
- **CVRWQCB Waste Discharge Requirements:** An Individual Order for Waste Discharge Permit from the CVRWQCB would be required for Project activities affecting wetlands or waters of the State, which are not under USACE jurisdiction (i.e., "isolated" features).
- **CDFW Section 1602 LSAA:** A Notification of Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1600 of CFGC for impacts to streambed, bank, or associated habitat as defined under Section 1602 of the CFGC.

The Project site falls within the boundaries of the SJMSCP, overlapping the Central Zone, the Central-Southwest Transition Zone, and the Southwest Zone; as a result, the Project shall adhere to the provisions of this adopted habitat conservation plan. To demonstrate consistency with the goals of the SJMSCP, avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures for burrowing owl and the San Joaquin Kit Fox are suggested for this Project.

- The Project site contains ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) burrows that have the potential to support burrowing owl, thus within 14-days prior to any of Project activities on-site, a single pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl should be conducted within the Project work areas and surrounding 300-foot buffer, as accessible and as feasible, to confirm absence or presence of burrowing owl. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist with experience in surveying for burrowing owl, including identification of burrowing owl sign and burrowing owl individuals. Furthermore, Subsection 5.2.4.15 of the SJMSCP provides guidelines for avoiding impacts and protecting burrowing owl. These guidelines state that burrowing owls may be discouraged from entering a potential construction site by preventing ground squirrels from creating these burrows. This can be achieved through planting or maintaining vegetation entirely covering the site at a height of approximately 36" above the ground, discing or plowing the entire project site to destroy any burrows, and removing ground squirrels. The SJMCP states that if the discouraging methods are insufficient, burrowing owls occupying the Project site should be evicted from the Project site during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) by passive relocation as described in the CDFW's Fish and Game Staff Report on Burrowing Owls (CDFW 2012). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31) a 75-meter protective buffer shall be established around



occupied burrows until a qualified biologist approved by the Permitting Agencies verifies that the burrow can be destroyed.

- Because the Project site is located within the Southwest/Central Transition Zone, surveys for San Joaquin kit fox must be conducted prior to any ground-disturbing work even if the species is not expected to occur within the Project site. Guidelines provided in Subsection 5.2.4.25 of the SJMSCP state that pre-construction surveys for San Joaquin kit fox and/or their dens should be conducted by a qualified biologist between two calendar weeks to thirty calendar days prior to any ground-disturbing activities. If individual kit foxes are observed during the survey, then an additional protocol level survey would be conducted as outlined in the USFWS *Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* protocol dated January 2011 (USFWS 2011). Additionally, if dens with openings of a diameter of four inches and that open within two feet inside of the den are observed within the Project site then a biologist would dust the opening of the den for three calendar days to determine if the den is occupied. If it is discovered that the den is occupied by a single adult kit fox then the den may be destroyed as soon as the fox either moves or leaves the den, whereas if the den is discovered to be a natal den, then a 250-foot buffer shall be maintained around the den until it is determined to be vacant by a qualified biologist.
- The Project is required to establish concurrence with the SJMSCP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Permitting Agencies that all potential suitable habitat for other SJMSCP Covered Species would be fully avoided pursuant to Section 5.5.9 of the SJMSCP. Should concurrence be established, pre-construction surveys may be waived and further Avoidance and Minimization measures would not be required. Additionally, to compensate for the loss of habitat of the SJMSCP Covered Species, several Mitigation Measures may be required by the County for the Project, consistent with the SJMSCP:
 - Pay the appropriate fee, in this case, \$1,500 per acre for Conversion of Agricultural Habitat Lands and Natural Lands
 - Establish Preserves, enhanced by the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), upon which SJMSCP Covered Species rely, through the purchase of easements from landowners willing to sell urban development rights.
 - Purchase approved mitigation bank credits as specified in Section 5.3.2.4. D. of the SJMSCP
 - Propose an alternative mitigation plan, consistent with the goals of the SJMSCP and equivalent in biological value to the options above, subject to approval by the JPA with the concurrence of the Permitting Agencies' representatives on the TAC.

The Project would be required to comply with the MBTA and CFGC to protect nesting bird species. Thus, the following avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented prior to site disturbance to avoid impacts to nesting raptors and other birds in the Project site or immediately adjacent areas.

- A nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the Project site (raptors and non-raptors) and a 500-foot buffer (raptors only) as feasible prior to commencing construction activities for each phase of the Project, if this work would begin during the typical nesting season (between February 1 and August 31).
- If nesting birds are identified during the pre-construction survey, the qualified biologist should determine an appropriate disturbance-free (i.e., no-work-zone) avoidance buffer (typically between 100 and 500 feet) depending on the species and as described in Subsections 5.2.4.16 through 5.2.4.22 in the SJMSCP. Buffer zones shall be clearly demarcated in the field for avoidance by construction activities.
- The size of an established buffer may be altered if the qualified biologist conducts behavioral observations and determines the nesting birds are well acclimated to disturbance. If this occurs, the biologist shall prescribe a modified buffer that allows sufficient room to prevent undue disturbance/harassment to the nesting birds. If the



buffer is reduced, the qualified biologist shall remain on-site to monitor the behavior of the nesting birds during construction in order to ensure that the reduced buffer does not result in take of eggs or nestlings.

- No construction or earth-moving activity shall occur within the established nest avoidance no-work-zone buffer until it is determined by the qualified biologist that the young have fledged (are no longer dependent on the nest or the adults for feeding) and have attained sufficient flight skills to avoid project construction zones. If a qualified biologist is not hired by the Project Applicant or the Contractor to monitor the active nesting birds/raptors, then the full buffer(s) shall be maintained in place from February 1 to August 31. The buffer may be removed, and work may proceed as otherwise planned within the buffer on September 1.

With the implementation of the Project's proposed avoidance and minimization measures, as well as compliance with State and Federal regulations, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive vegetation communities, special-status species, state or federally protected aquatic resources, or nesting birds. Additionally, by following guidelines outlined in this report, this Project would not conflict with the provisions of the SJMSCP.

We thank you for the opportunity to prepare the Biological Resources Letter Report for this Project. Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at dbaumbach@bargasconsulting.com or Thomas Liddicoat at tliddicoat@bargasconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

Dustin Baumbach

Dustin Baumbach
Biologist

Appendices:

- Appendix A. Site Photographs
- Appendix B. Floral & Faunal Compendia
- Appendix C. Special-Status Biological Resource Summary



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Appendix A. Site Photographs



Photo 1. West side of Chrisman Road and Highway 132, facing south.



Photo 2. East side of Chrisman Road and Highway 132, facing south.



Photo 3. California ground squirrel burrows suitable for use by Burrowing Owl.

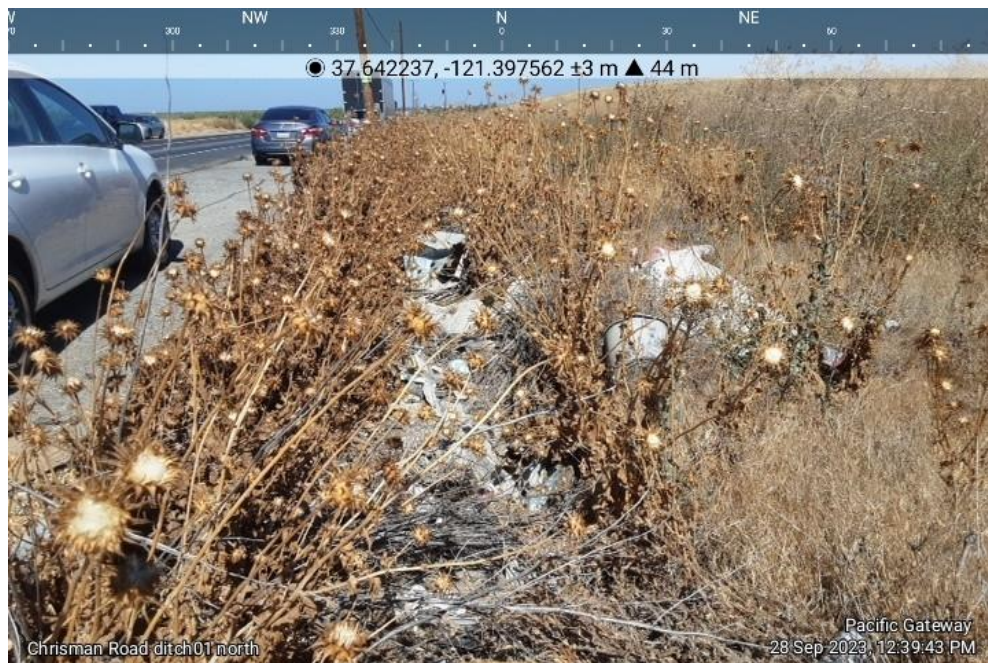


Photo 4. Roadside drainage ditch on the east side of Chrisman Road, north of Highway 132.

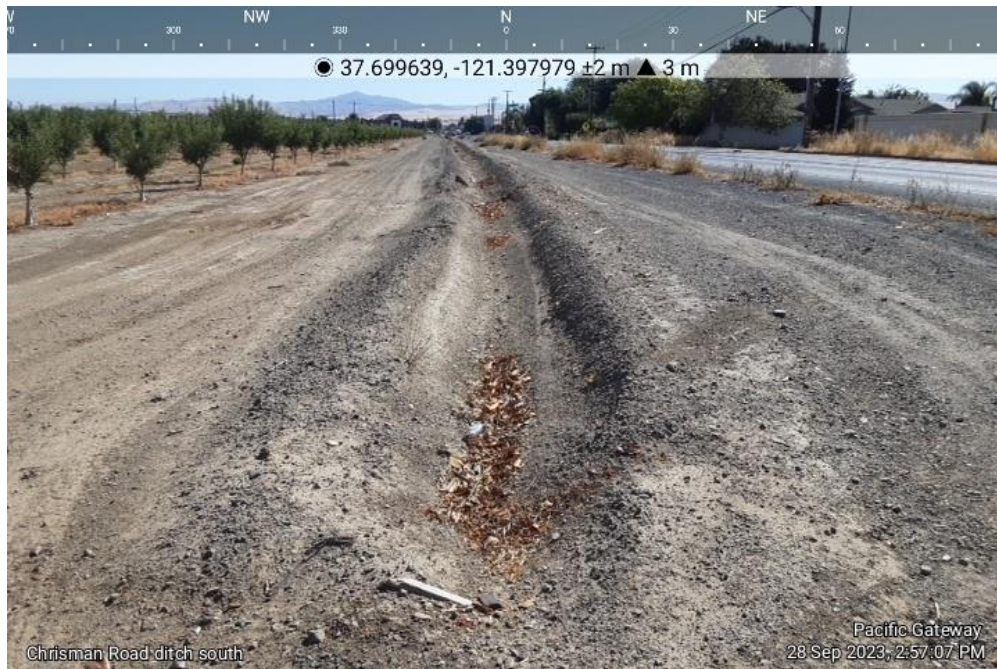


Photo 5. Isolated ditch at Chrisman Road, facing south.



Photo 6. Agricultural canal at Chrisman Road, facing southeast.

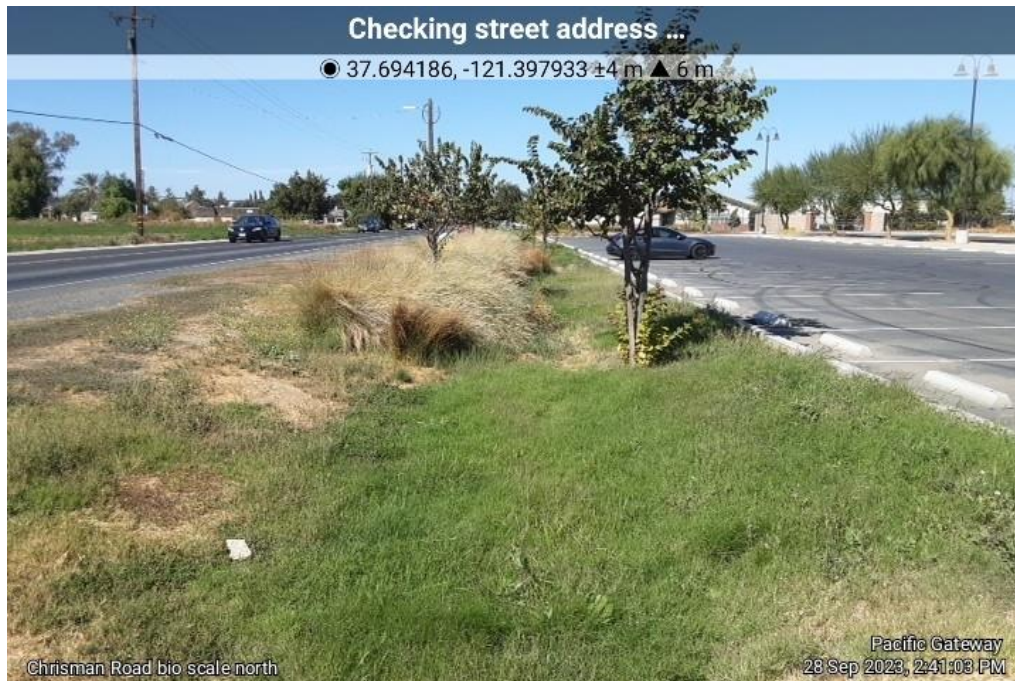


Photo 7. Biological swale at Chrisman Road, facing north.



Photo 8. Roadside drainage along Vernalis Road, facing west.



Appendix B. Floral & Faunal Compendia

Bargas has documented the presence of 59 plant taxa and 16 wildlife taxa. Taxa are presented in taxonomic order.

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Major Clade	Native/Non-Native
Cattail	<i>Typha sp.</i>	Typhaceae	Monocots	—
Common Sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Native
Bristly Ox-Tongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Perennial Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Brassicaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Tumbleweed	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	Amaranthaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Lamb's Quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Chenopodiaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Doveweed, Turkey-Mullein	<i>Croton setiger</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Eudicots	Native
Little Mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Malvaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Common Devil's Claw	<i>Proboscidea louisianica subsp. louisianica</i>	Martyniaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Mule Fat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia subsp. salicifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Native
Desert Almond	<i>Prunus fasciculata</i>	Rosaceae	Eudicots	Native
Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Rosaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Narrow-Leaved Willow, Coyote Willow	<i>Salix exigua var. exigua</i>	Salicaceae	Eudicots	Native
Tree Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Solanaceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
American Black Nightshade	<i>Solanum americanum</i>	Solanaceae	Eudicots	Native
Yellow Star-Thistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Tall Flatsedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Cyperaceae	Monocots	Native
False Nutsedge	<i>Cyperus strigosus</i>	Cyperaceae	Monocots	Native
Wild Oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized
Rescue Grass	<i>Bromus catharticus</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized
Jungle Rice	<i>Echinochloa colona</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized
Barney Grass, Japanese Millet, Watergrass	<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized
Wall Barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized



Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Naturalized
Rough Blue Grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Poaceae	Monocots	Naturalized
Mustard sp.	<i>Brassica sp.</i>	Brassicaceae	Eudicots	—
Prickly-pear sp.	<i>Opuntia sp.</i>	Cactaceae	Eudicots	—
Salsola sp.	<i>Salsola sp.</i>	Chenopodiaceae	Eudicots	—
Horseweed	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Asteraceae	Eudicots	Native
California Black Walnut	<i>Juglans californica</i>	Juglandaceae	Dicot	Native
Great Brome	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Poaceae	Monocot	Invasive
Red Brome	<i>Bromus rubens</i>	Poaceae	Monocot	Invasive
Lop Grass	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Poaceae	Monocot	Invasive
Gumweed	<i>Grindelia hirsutula</i>	Asteraceae	Dicot	Native
Interior Live Oak	<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	Fagaceae	Dicot	Native
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Apocynaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Clover	<i>Trifolium spp.</i>	Fabaceae	Dicot	—
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Juncaceae	Monocot	Native
Western Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Fabaceae	Dicot	Native
Mule Fat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Dicot	Native
Small Geranium	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Geraniaceae	Dicot	Naturalized
Alkali Sacaton	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Poaceae	Monocot	Native
Elm	<i>Ulmus spp.</i>	Ulmaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Convolvulaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Bermuda Grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Poaceae	Monocot	Invasive
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Asteraceae	Dicot	Naturalized
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Fabaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Mexican Fan Palm	<i>Washingtonia robustus</i>	Arecaceae	Monocot	Naturalized
Chinese Hackberry	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Cannabaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Stone fruit species	<i>Prunus sp.</i>	Rosaceae	Dicot	Introduced



Spanish Clover	<i>Acemispom americanus</i>	Fabaceae	Dicot	Native
Sweet viburnum	<i>Viburnum odoratissimum</i>	Viburnaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Coast Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Cupressaceae	Dicot	Native
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Fabaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Apocynaceae	Dicot	Introduced
Toyon	<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Rosaceae	Dicot	Native
Carolina Horsenettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>	Solanaceae	Dicot	Native
California Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	Polygonaceae	Dicot	Native
Russian Thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Amaranthaceae	Dicot	Introduced

Wildlife

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Native/Non-Native
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)	Non-native
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)	Native
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Accipitridae (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies)	Native
California Scrub Jay	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Corvidae (Crows and Jays)	Native
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Corvidae (Crows and Jays)	Native
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)	Native
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Passerellidae (New World Sparrows)	Native
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Icteridae (Blackbirds)	Native
Red-Tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Accipitridae (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies)	Native
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Corvidae (Crows and Jays)	Native
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Sturnidae (Starlings)	Non-native
Brown-Headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)	Native
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Fringillidae (Finches, Euphonias, and Allies)	Native
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)	Native
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Cathartidae (New World Vultures)	Native



Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)	Native
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Appendix C. Special-Status Biological Resource Summary

The research conducted for this report included a desktop review of numerous resource databases in order to determine a list of special-status biological resources, including 12 plant taxa and 41 wildlife taxa to be analyzed for potential occurrence. The result of this analysis is summarized in the tables below. Table column definitions:

- **Common Name:** The most widely-accepted English common name for the taxon.
- **Scientific Name:** The most widely-accepted scientific name for the taxon.
- **Source(s):** The desktop review source(s) that contained this taxon.
- **Sensitivity Status:** The legal protected status of the taxon. These terms are described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Habitat:** The quality of the habitat on the Project site for supporting the taxon. Classification of habitats is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Soils:** The suitability of soils on the Project site to support the taxon, if known. Classification of soils is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.
- **Potential:** The potential for the taxon to be found on the Project site. Ranking of potential is described in detail in the Methods section of this report.

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Sensitivity Status	Habitat	Soils	Occurrence Potential
Delta Button Celery	<i>Eryngium racemosum</i>	CNPS, SJMSCP	CE, CRPR 1B.1,	Low Quality	Unknown	Not Expected
Diamond-petaled California Poppy	<i>Eschsholzia rhombipetala</i>	CNPS, SJMSCP	CRPR 1B.1,	Low Quality	Yes	Not Expected
Caper-fruited Tropidocarpum	<i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i>	CNPS, SJMSCP	CRPR 1B.1,	Low Quality	Unknown	Not Expected
Big Tarplant	<i>Blepharizonia plumosa</i>	CNPS, CNPS, CNDDDB	CRPR 1B.1	Low Quality	Unknown	Not Expected
Slough Thistle	<i>Cirsium crassicaule</i>	CNPS, SJMSCP	CRPR 1B.1,	Not Present	No	None
Mt. Hamilton Coreopsis	<i>Leptosyne hamiltonii</i>	SJMSCP	CRPR 1B.2,	Not Present	Unknown	None
Showy Golden Madia	<i>Madia radiata</i>	CNPS, CNDDDB	CRPR 1B.1	Low Quality	Unknown	Not Expected
Large-flowered Fiddleneck	<i>Amsinckia grandiflora</i>	CNPS, IPaC, CNDDDB	FE, CE, CRPR 1B.1	Not Present	Unknown	None
Wright's trichocoronis	<i>Trichocoronis wrightii</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	CNPS, SJMSCP	CRPR 2B.1,	Not Present	Unknown	None

Wildlife



Common Name	Scientific Name	Source(s)	Sensitivity Status	Habitat	Potential
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	IPaC	FT	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	IPaC	FE	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	CNDDDB, IPaC; SJMSCP	FT	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Monarch - California Overwintering Population	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	IPaC	FC	Low Quality	Not Expected
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	CNDDDB	CE, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
California Red-legged Frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	IPaC	FT, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Western Spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	CNDDDB; IPaC; SJMSCP	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
California Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	CNDDDB; IPaC	FE, CE	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Coast Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	CNDDDB	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
California Glossy Snake	<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i>	CNDDDB	SSC	Low Quality	Not Expected
San Joaquin Coachwhip	<i>Coluber flagellum ruddocki</i>	CNDDDB	SSC	Low Quality	Not Expected
Northwestern Pond Turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	CNDDDB; IPaC	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	IPaC	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Low Quality	Not Expected
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Low Quality	Not Expected
California Condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	IPaC	FE, CE, FP	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus hudsonius</i>	SJMSCP	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Low Quality	Not Expected
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Low Quality	Not Expected
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	CNDDDB; SJMSCP	CT	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	CNDDDB; SJMSCP	SSC	Low Quality	Not Expected
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Least Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	CNDDDB	FE, CE	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	CNDDDB; SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent



Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	SJMSCP	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	CNDDB; SJMSCP	CT, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Yuma Myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Western Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i>	SJMSCP	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Riparian Brush Rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i>	CNDDB; IPaC	FE, CE	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Riparian Woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i>	IPaC	FE, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
San Joaquin Kit Fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	CNDDB; IPaC; SJMSCP	FE, CT	Low Quality	Not Expected
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	CNDDB, SJMSCP	SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Green sturgeon - Southern DPS	<i>Acipenser medirostris pop. 1</i>	CNDDB	FT, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Steelhead - Central Valley DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11</i>	CNDDB	FT, SSC	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Longfin Smelt	<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys pop. 2</i>	CNDDB	FE, CT	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Black-Crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent
Eastern Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	SJMSCP	SJMSCP Covered Species	Not Present	Presumed Absent