

Appendix C-7

Special-Status Wildlife

The following table lists the special-status wildlife potentially present in the Project area. Potential for occurrence is defined as follows:

- **Present:** Species or sign of their presence recently observed on the site.
- **High:** Species or sign not observed on the site, but reasonably certain to occur on the site based on conditions, species ranges, and recent records.
- **Moderate:** Species or sign not observed on the site, but conditions suitable for occurrence and/or an historical record exists in the vicinity.
- **Low:** Species or sign not observed on the site, and conditions marginal for occurrence.
- **Not likely to occur:** Species or sign not observed on the site, outside of the known range, and conditions unsuitable for occurrence.

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
INVERTEBRATES			
<i>Ammopelmatus muwu</i> Point Conception jerusalem cricket	SA	Coastal dunes at Point Conception.	Not Likely to Occur. No coastal dunes in the Project area; Project may be outside of geographic range.
<i>Bombus caliginosus</i> Obscure bumble bee	SA	Coastal areas from Santa Barbara Co. north to Washington State. Food plants include <i>Baccharis</i> , <i>Cirsium</i> , <i>Lupinus</i> , <i>Lotos</i> , <i>Gindelia</i> , and <i>Phacelia</i> .	Moderate. Habitat present; several food plants are present in the Project area. Species not observed during Project surveys. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB is an historic record approx. 5.6 miles east of the Project site and 4 miles east of the transmission line in the Santa Ynez Mtns. Limited habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i> Longhorn fairy shrimp	FE	Endemic to the eastern margin of the central coast mountains in seasonally astatic grassland vernal pools. Inhabit small, clear-water depressions in sandstone and clear-to-turbid clay/grass-bottomed pools in shallow swales.	Not Likely to Occur. Project site and transmission corridor outside known geographic range. Nearest known population is at the Carrizo Plain National Monument San Luis Obispo Co.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone depression pools, grassy swales, slumps, or basalt-flow depression pools.	Moderate. Although no suitable habitat was identified in the Applicant's biological survey reports, a vernal pool area that would be crossed by the access road leading to N-8 and N-9 could provide potential habitat. Vernal pool fairy shrimp have been documented in 12 locations on VAFB.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> Monarch butterfly (California overwintering)	SA	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja Calif., Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	Moderate. Habitat present in eucalyptus groves. Winter roost sites not observed during Project surveys or known from the area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 1.4 miles southwest of the Project area in Water Canyon. Limited habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	FE	Restricted to remnant coastal dune habitat in So. Calif. Host plant is	Present. Species was observed in these habitats during focused surveys conducted in

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El Segundo blue butterfly		seacliff buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>); larvae feed only on the flowers and seeds; used by adults as major nectar source. A geographically distinct population has been documented at VAFB.	2008. The Applicant's consultants mapped 6.5 acres of seacliff buckwheat host plant in the Project site in 2017. Mapping performed in 2018 documented an additional 18 acres within the site.
<i>Plebejus icarioides moroensis</i> Morro Bay blue butterfly	SA	Inhabits stabilized dunes and adjacent areas of coastal San Luis Obispo and NW Santa Barbara Cos.	Not Likely to Occur. No coastal dune habitat in the Project area.
<i>Trimerotropis occulens</i> Lompoc grasshopper	SA	Known only from Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Cos. Generally found on or around exposed, weathered Monterey or Sisquoc shale.	Low. Because the habitat requirements are unknown for this species and it was observed most recently along a dirt road at VAFB north of the Project area, the potential for suitable habitat should be considered. Species not observed as a result of multiple surveys. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 1.2 miles north of the Project area in Lompoc. Potential suitable habitat along the transmission corridor.
FISHES			
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> Tidewater goby	FE, CSSC	Brackish water habitats along the calif coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat not present; Brackish water is absent from the Project area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 3.5 miles south of the Project area in Jalama Creek.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> Unarmored threespine stickleback	FE, SE, CFP	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small So. Calif. streams. Cool (<24 °C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	Not Likely to Occur. No suitable perennial aquatic habitat in the Project area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 0.9 mile north of the Project area in Cañada Honda Creek. This creek within the Project site boundary lacks permanent water in the channel.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> Steelhead – southern California DPS	FE, CSSC	Federal listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Santa Maria River south to the U.S.-Mexico border. Anadromous adults migrate upstream to spawn in cool, clear, well-oxygenated streams. Juveniles remain in fresh water for 1 or more years before migrating downstream to the ocean. Requires perennial stream and barrier-free passage to the Pacific Ocean.	Not Likely to Occur. Suitable habitat not present; perennial water and suitable migration corridor to the ocean are not present in the Project area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 11.6 miles north of the Project area in the Santa Ynez River.
AMPHIBIANS			
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California tiger salamander	FE, ST, CSSC	Inhabits annual grassland habitats, with most time spent in mammal burrows and other underground refugia. Breeds in vernal pools and other seasonal aquatic features.	Low. Suitable breeding habitat not identified on site or within dispersal distance. Nearest CNDDDB record from Santa Rita Valley, approx. 5 miles northeast of the terminus of the transmission line and 10 miles northeast of the Project site.

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
<p><i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog</p>	<p>FT, CSSC</p>	<p>Endemic to Calif. Associated with quiet perennial to intermittent ponds, stream pools and wetlands. Prefers shorelines with extensive riparian and/or emergent vegetation. Documented to disperse through upland habitats after rains.</p>	<p>High. Marginal to poor habitat was identified for this species within riparian areas throughout the Project site during a habitat assessment and focused surveys conducted in 2007 and 2008. Approx. 204 acres of critical habitat for this species has been designated within the southeast portion of the Project area. No suitable riparian habitat is present for this species within the critical habitat area; however, upland dispersal habitats are present. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 0.23 mile north of the Project area in San Miguelito Creek in 2008, near the transmission corridor. There are five other occurrences within 1 mile east of the Project site, along Cañada Honda Creek in VAFB, recorded in 2008.</p>
<p><i>Spea hammondi</i> Western spadefoot</p>	<p>CSSC</p>	<p>Occurs primarily in lowland habitats with sandy or gravelly soils such as washes and floodplains, also in grassland, chaparral and woodland. Breeds in temporary rain pools that are inundated for at least three weeks.</p>	<p>Moderate. Nearest record approx. 7.5 miles north of the Project site in Burton Mesa.</p>
<p><i>Taricha torosa</i> Coast Range newt</p>	<p>CSSC</p>	<p>Coastal drainages from Mendocino Co. to San Diego Co.; SSC status applies only from the Salinas River south. Lives in terrestrial habitats (generally forest and woodland) and will migrate over 1 kilometer to breed in ponds, reservoirs and slow-moving streams.</p>	<p>Moderate. Not reported from the area, but potential habitat occurs in and near the Project area and could move through drainages or uplands during rainy season. Nearest record from Canada de la Cuarta on Hollister Ranch, over 13 miles southeast of the Project site.</p>
REPTILES			
<p><i>Anniella pulchra</i> Northern California legless lizard (formerly silvery legless lizard)</p>	<p>CSSC</p>	<p>Burrowing species found in loose sandy or loamy soils within beach, chaparral, woodland and other habitats. Soil must be suitably moist for survival.</p> <p>North American legless lizards were previously classified as a single species, <i>Anniella pulchra</i>, with two subspecies. However, recent genetic studies have shown that there are actually five distinct genetic lineages, and four new species were named while the species currently recognized as <i>A. pulchra</i> was given the new common name of northern Calif. legless lizard to reflect its recognized distribution (Parham and Papenfuss, 2008 and 2013). Northern Calif. legless lizard, <i>A. pulchra</i> occurs from the southern edge of the San Joaquin River in northern Contra Costa Co. south to Ventura Co., and also in scattered</p>	<p>High. Suitable habitat occurs within much of the Project site and transmission line corridor; nearest records from VAFB approx. 5.3 miles west of Project site and Burton Mesa approx. 5 miles north of transmission line terminus.</p>

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		locations in the San Joaquin Valley, along the southern Sierra Nevada Mtns., and on the desert side of the Tehachapi Mtns. and part of the San Gabriel Mtns.	
<i>Emys marmorata</i> Western pond turtle	CSSC	Occurs in perennial ponds, lakes, rivers and streams with suitable basking habitat (mud banks, mats of floating vegetation, partially submerged logs), submerged shelter and terrestrial nest sites. Requires friable soil for breeding. Documented to disperse and wander over upland habitats.	Low. Unlikely due to lack of perennial water in drainages within Project area. Nearest records from Salsipuedes Creek, approx. 3.3 miles east of the transmission line and 4.8 miles east of the Project site.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> Coast horned lizard	CSSC	Loose, fine soils in a variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, coniferous forest, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and the margins of higher-elevation deserts in juniper desert chaparral. Abundant prey base of native ants and other insects required.	Present. Known to occur on site.
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> Coast patch-nosed snake	CSSC, Local concern	Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal So. Calif. Requires small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites.	High. Suitable habitat occurs within coastal sage scrub habitats in the Project site and transmission line corridor; nearest record from Burton Mesa approx. 5.2 miles northeast of transmission line terminus.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> Two-striped garter snake	CSSC	Occurs in coastal Calif. from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja Calif. Highly aquatic, found in or near freshwater. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	Moderate. Suitable habitat is present within San Miguelito Creek. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 3.1 miles east of the Project area along Salsipuedes creek. Limited habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
BIRDS			
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	WL, Local concern	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted, or marginal type; nest sites mainly in riparian growths of deciduous trees.	Present. Observed during Project surveys in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Reported on site in eBird most recently in 2018. In 2008, one active nest, one possible nest, and two inactive nests were observed at the site. Also observed during 2013 aerial raptor surveys conducted in a 9-mile radius around the Project site. Habitat also exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Accipiter striatus</i> Sharp-shinned hawk	WL	Prefers, but not restricted to riparian habitats; breeds in ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer, and Jeffrey pine habitats; requires north-facing slopes with perches. Occupies woodlands and the interface between woodlands and open areas.	Present. Observed during avian surveys conducted at the site in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2016, and 2018 and reported on site in eBird most recently in 2018. Suitable habitat is present near riparian areas at the Project site. Habitat also present along the transmission corridor.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored blackbird	CSE, CSSC BCC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in central valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to Calif. Requires open water, protected nesting	Present. During avian surveys in May 2002, a flock of approx. 12 individuals was observed in grasslands along an existing access road on Middle Ridge. In the autumn of 2008, 66

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		substrate, & foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	individuals were observed at Sudden Road Pass, in grasslands and agricultural fields. Suitable habitat is also present along the grassland areas of the transmission corridor. Unlikely to nest due to lack of extensive bulrush/cattail habitat.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> So. California rufous-crowned sparrow	WL, Local concern	Common breeding resident in coastal sage scrub; also in grassland on steep slopes with scattered shrubs and boulders.	Present. Documented on site during surveys for LWEP. Observed nesting in select areas that include dry open areas of scrub habitat or rock outcrops.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> Grasshopper sparrow	CSSC, Local concern	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with a mix of grasses, forbs & scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	Present. Suitable habitat is present within coastal sage scrub and grassland mosaic habitats throughout the Project site and transmission corridor. It was observed in these habitats throughout the Project area during avian surveys conducted in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
<i>Amphispiza belli</i> Bell's sage sparrow	BCC, WL	Resident, though shows seasonal movements. Prefers dense chaparral and scrub habitats for breeding; associated with chamise. Also occurs in more open habitats during winter.	Low. Suitable habitat is present within coastal sage scrub. There are no occurrences of this species within the 9-quadrangle in the CNDDDB, and no nearby records in eBird or iNaturalist.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> Golden eagle	CFP, WL, BCC	Resident, though wanders widely. Found in rolling foothill and mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, desert. Cliff-walled canyons provide nesting habitat in most parts of range.	Present. Suitable foraging habitat occurs throughout the entire Project site and transmission corridor. It was observed during every avian survey conducted at the site in the years 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Multiple eBird reports, including from 2018, on site. Up to 3 individuals have been observed at one time on site (eBird 2018 data). It was also observed during aerial surveys conducted in 2013, 2016, 2018, and 2019 in a 10-mile radius around the Project site. No golden eagle nesting has been observed at the site during any of the surveys; however, 2019 aerial nest surveys documented an active nest 500 feet north of the Project area and in 2018 an active nest was observed approx. 4 miles northeast of the site in cliffs along the Santa Ynez River. Data provided from the USFWS identify two additional nests east and southeast of the Project site within 10 miles (2016 data).
<i>Ardea alba</i> Great egret	SA	Colonial nester in large trees. Rookery sites located near marshes, tide-flats, irrigated pastures, and margins of rivers and lakes.	Present. One individual was observed flying over the Project area during avian surveys conducted in 2016. However, suitable roosting and foraging habitat is not present due to the lack of wetland habitats within the Project area. Therefore, it is likely that this species is a passage migrant through the site and the transmission corridor.
<i>Asio flammeus</i> Short-eared owl	CSSC, BCC	Ground-nester. Breeding habitat includes open country such as large expanses of prairie and coastal grasslands, heathlands, shrub-steppe, and tundra as well as	High. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands within the Project area. One individual of this species was observed within 1 mile to the south of the Project site during aerial raptor surveys

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		agricultural areas. Forages over similar habitats including open wetlands, ag fields, and grasslands; temperate N & S America, Eurasia	conducted in 2013. Habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Asio otus</i> Long-eared owl	CSSC	Resident and visitor in the region. Nests in a variety of woodland habitats, including oak and riparian. Requires adjacent open land with rodents for foraging, and the presence of old nests of crows, hawks, magpies etc. for breeding.	Moderate. Suitable habitat is present within the riparian areas and adjacent oak woodlands at the Project site. Observed at VAFB in 1996. As reported in the LWEP EIR, large numbers (8-12 individuals) have been observed during winter roosting along Honda Creek just off VAFB.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing owl	CSSC, BCC	Resident and winter visitor in open, dry annual or perennial grasslands and scrub habitats with low-growing vegetation, perches and abundant mammal burrows. Preys upon insects and small vertebrates. Nests and roosts in old mammal burrows, generally those of ground squirrels.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in agricultural fields and grasslands within the Project area. Two individuals were observed in annual grassland on the North Ridge during avian surveys conducted in winter 2008, and the LWEP EIR reported that burrowing owl was observed on site utilizing large expanses of grassland and agricultural areas. Wintering individuals known from VAFB and Cojo Ranch. Burrows remained active during the Sapphos winter 2008 surveys, this included multiple observations.
<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i> Oak titmouse	BCC	Oak woods, pinyon-juniper; locally river woods, shade trees. Along Pacific seaboard, occurs most commonly in oak woodland, including areas where oaks meet streamside trees or pines; also in well-wooded suburbs, rarely in coniferous forest in mountains. In the interior, also occurs in some woodlands dominated by pine or juniper.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in oak woodland within the Project area. Individuals were observed within oak woodlands throughout the Project site during avian surveys conducted in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Buteo regalis</i> Ferruginous hawk	WL, BCC, Local concern	Winter visitor. Frequents open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills surrounding valleys and fringes of pinyon-juniper habitats.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands and coastal sage scrub within the Project area. This species was observed in coastal sage scrub during avian surveys conducted in 2008, 2016, and 2018. Also reported on site in eBird in 2018, including a record of 2 individuals. Habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	ST, BCC	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch land. Requires suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	Present. Two individuals observed during spring-summer raptor point count surveys in 2018. Not known to nest in the region.
<i>Calypte costae</i> Costa's hummingbird	BCC	Resident in chaparral, scrub and woodland habitats with nectar flowers and insect populations. Nest constructed in a variety of trees and shrubs, often near water.	Present. Two individuals observed during 2018 point count surveys.

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
<i>Catharus ustulatus</i> Swainson's thrush	Local concern	In Calif., riparian woodland and thickets of willow or alder; and sometimes coastal scrub. Nesting occurs at elevations from sea level to 2,600 m or higher.	Present. Suitable habitat is present within riparian woodland and coastal scrub within the Project site and transmission corridor. Individuals, including breeding pairs, were observed in the riparian and oak woodland along San Miguelito Road during avian surveys conducted in 2008.
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i> Vaux's swift	CSSC	Summer resident. Breeds in woodlands and low-elevation coniferous forest in portions of the Coast Ranges. Nests in tree cavities, typically located in tall, isolated tree/snag.	Present. Suitable habitat present in woodlands within the Project area. This species was observed at the Project site during avian surveys conducted in 2008. Does not breed in area.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> Western snowy plover	FT, CSSC, BCC	Breeds primarily above the high tide line on coastal beaches, sand spits, dune-backed beaches, sparsely-vegetated dunes, beaches at creek and river mouths, and salt pans at lagoons and estuaries. Less commonly nests on bluff-backed beaches, dredged material disposal sites, salt pond levees, dry salt ponds, and river bars. Found on many beaches in winter, including non-nesting beaches, man-made salt ponds, estuarine sand and mud flats.	Not Likely to Occur. Project area is too far from coastal areas and does not support suitable habitat.
<i>Charadrius montanus</i> Mountain plover	CSSC, BCC	Winters in short grasslands and agricultural fields. Breeds in short-grass prairies outside of Calif.	High. Known from VAFB. Suitable grassland habitats throughout Project area.
<i>Circus cyaneus</i> Northern harrier	CSSC	Resident and winter visitor. Forages in open meadows, savannah, and grassland habitats, often in association with wetlands. Nests on ground in emergent or shrubby vegetation, the latter usually in wet areas. Generally avoids forested and mountainous habitats.	Present. Suitable habitat is present for this species in grassland, agricultural field, and coastal sage scrub mosaic within the Project area. This species was observed during every avian survey conducted at the site in the years 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2018 and reported in eBird most recently in 2018. Also, it was observed during aerial surveys conducted in 2013 in a 9-mile radius around the Project site. However, no northern harrier nesting has been observed at the site during any of the surveys, and the site is well outside of its breeding range. Habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> Olive-sided flycatcher	CSSC, BCC	Wide variety of forest and woodland habitats below 2,800 m in elevation throughout Calif., excluding the deserts, Central Valley, and other lowland valleys and basins. Preferred nesting habitats include coniferous forests and sometimes mixed-deciduous forest. Typically use dead branches or trees.	Present. One individual was observed in a willow thicket and eucalyptus grove during avian surveys conducted in spring 2008. Habitat exists along the transmission corridor.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed kite	CFP, Local concern	Resident of coastal and valley lowlands. Preys on small diurnal mammals as well as other	Present. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands, riparian areas, and grasslands at the Project site and along the transmission

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		vertebrates and insects. Nests in small to large trees, often at habitat edges.	corridor. Observed during raptor point count surveys in 2018-2019. An individual was observed on a fence post in a pasture during avian surveys conducted in spring 2008. Also observed approx. 8 miles northeast of the Project site during an aerial raptor survey conducted in a 9- mile radius around the site in 2013. Nesting has been observed in the Lompoc area.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE, SE (State listed at the species level)	Summer resident in the southern third of Calif. and the Southwest. Typically breeds in dense riparian vegetation associated with standing water. Vegetative microhabitats used for nesting variable; willows, mulefat, blackberry and cottonwood are commonly used. Nests typically within ten ft. of the ground.	High. Suitable habitat is present in riparian willow thickets within the Project area. Species not observed during any Project surveys. Suitable habitat also exists along San Miguelito Creek and the transmission corridor. eBird record of willow flycatcher (subspecies unknown) was reported from Miguelito Co. Park adjacent to transmission line corridor.
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	WL, Local concern	Coastal regions, chiefly from Sonoma Co. to San Diego Co. Also main part of San Joaquin Valley and east to foothills. Short grass prairie, "bald" hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, and alkali flats.	Present. Large numbers of this species have been observed nesting and foraging in grasslands and agricultural fields throughout the Project site during every avian survey conducted in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016, and 2017.
<i>Falco columbarius</i> Merlin	WL, Local concern	Wide-variety of habitats including marshes, deserts, seacoasts, open woodlands, fields.	Present. Several individuals were observed in grasslands and coastal sage scrub habitat during avian surveys conducted at the site in autumn 2016.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> Prairie falcon	WL, BCC	Resident and winter visitor. Inhabits dry, open terrain, including grasslands, scrub and desert. Breeding sites typically located on remote cliffs. Forages widely.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands within the Project site and along the transmission line corridor. It was observed flying on the east ridge of the site during avian surveys conducted in autumn 2008 and in 2018, and was reported on site in eBird in 2018. Also observed during aerial surveys conducted in 2016 and 2018-2019 in a 9-mile radius around the Project site; the nearest observation was approx. 4 miles to the east. In 2018 a pair of prairie falcon adults were detected at an active nest approximately 7.3 miles northeast of the Project Area.
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> American peregrine falcon	CFP, BCC, Local concern	Resident and winter visitor. Winters throughout the Central Valley and along portions of the coast; breeds at various coastal sites. Requires protected cliffs and ledges for nesting. Feeds primarily on water birds.	Present. Suitable foraging habitat is present throughout open habitats within the Project site and along the transmission corridor. It was observed during avian surveys conducted in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016, and 2018/2019. Also, a nesting pair was observed on a cliff approx. five miles northeast of the site during aerial raptor surveys conducted in 2013 in a 9-mile radius around the site, and at the same location in 2016 and 2018Two additional known falcon nests within 10 miles were active in 2018, but not accessible due to flight restrictions. In most years there are typically four active peregrine

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			falcon nests within a 10-mile radius of the Project Area (C. Thelander, pers. comm.).
<i>Gavia immer</i> Common loon	CSSC	Estuarine and subtidal marine habitats along entire coast from September to May; sometimes by lakes in valleys and foothills throughout entire state. In November and May, it is a common migrant along the coast in November and May.	Present. Several flocks were observed flying over the Project area during avian surveys conducted in autumn 2008, 2016, and 2018. However, suitable roosting and foraging habitat is not present due to the lack of wetland habitats within the Project area. Therefore, it is likely that this species is a passage migrant through the site and the transmission corridor.
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> California condor	FE, SE, CFP	Resident, though home range can be very large. Requires vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, foothill chaparral and canyons. Nests on cliffs and in caves; roosts in large trees and snags. Forages over wide areas for the carcasses of large animals.	Low. Grassland, savannah and other typical foraging habitats are present within the Project area, and potential forage (e.g. dead livestock) may periodically be present on areas used for grazing. Suitable cliff breeding habitat is absent within and near the Study Area. USFWS tracks condor movement, and as of 2017 four points were recorded within 20 miles of the Project. The closest record was approx. 8 miles south of the Project site over the ocean, but all other records are north and east of the Project. The condor has been expanding its range, and could potentially occur more regularly in the Project area over the life of the Project.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald eagle	SE, CFP, BCC	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mi of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree w/open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	Present. Observed during raptor point count surveys in fall-winter 2018. Bald eagles are likely rare transients rather than residents at or near Project site. No bald eagle nests were observed during multiple Project surveys, including during aerial surveys conducted in a 10-mile radius around the site in 2013, 2016, and 2019. A juvenile bald eagle was observed soaring and circling on September 28 and October 4, 2018 in the southern central portion of the site.
<i>Icteria virens</i> Yellow-breasted chat	CSSC	Summer resident, utilizing riparian areas with an open canopy, dense understory, and trees for song perches. Nests in thickets of willow, blackberry, and wild grape.	Present. Suitable foraging and breeding habitat is present in riparian thickets within the Project site and transmission corridor. It was observed in La Honda Creek during avian surveys conducted in spring 2008.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead shrike	CSSC, BCC	Resident in open woodland, grassland, savannah and scrub. Prefers open areas with sparse shrubs, trees, posts, and other suitable perches for foraging. Preys upon large insects and small vertebrates. Nests are well-concealed above ground in densely foliated shrub or tree.	Present. Suitable habitat includes woodlands, grasslands, and coastal sage scrub within the Project site and transmission corridor. It was observed perching on fence posts and telephone poles during avian surveys conducted at the site in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2016, 2017, and 2018.
<i>Larus californicus</i> California gull	WL	Littoral waters, sandy beaches, waters and shorelines of bays, tidal mud-flats, marshes, lakes, etc. Colonial nester on islets in large interior lakes, either fresh or strongly alkaline.	Present. One was observed flying over the Project area during avian surveys conducted in autumn 2008. However, suitable roosting and foraging habitat is not present due to the distance of the site to the shoreline. Therefore, it is likely that this species is a passage migrant through the site and the transmission corridor.

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Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
<i>Numenius americanus</i> Long-billed curlew	WL, BCC, Local concern	Prairies and grasslands, usually near water.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands within the Project site and transmission corridor. An individual was observed flying over grasslands during avian surveys conducted in winter 2008.
<i>Passerina caerulea</i> Blue grosbeak	Local concern	Partially open habitats including, riparian woodland, scrub, thickets, and agricultural lands. Nest in low trees or bushes typically 1 to 3 m above ground.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in coastal sage scrub and grassland habitats within the Project area. Observed breeding at the Project site in such habitats during surveys conducted in spring 2008 and 2017.
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i> California brown pelican	CFP, Local concern	Colonial nester on coastal islands just outside the surf line. Nests on coastal islands of small to moderate size which afford immunity from attack by ground-dwelling predators. Roosts communally.	Present. An individual was observed flying over the Project area during avian surveys conducted in autumn 2016. However, suitable roosting and foraging habitat is not present due to the distance of the site to the shoreline. Therefore, it is likely that this species is a passage migrant through the site and transmission corridor only.
<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i> Double-crested cormorant	WL	Colonial nester on coastal cliffs, offshore islands, and along lake margins in the interior of the state. Nests along coast on sequestered islets, usually on ground with sloping surface, or in tall trees along lake margins.	Present. Observed flying over the Project area during avian surveys conducted in autumn 2008 and autumn 2016. However, suitable roosting and foraging habitat is not present due to the distance of the site to the shoreline. Therefore, it is likely a passage migrant through the site and transmission corridor only.
<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i> Common poor-will	Local concern	Scrub and brush, grasslands, desert, rocky canyons, open woodland and broken forest in dry habitats. Nest in open on bare areas.	Present. Suitable habitat is present along roadsides, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands within the Project site and transmission corridor. This species was observed along paved roads during avian surveys conducted in 2008, 2016, and 2017.
<i>Pica nuttalli</i> Yellow-billed magpie	BCC	Stream groves, scattered oaks, ranches, farms. Most numerous in open oak savanna and where riverside groves of oaks, cottonwoods, and sycamores border on open country such as pastures or farmland. Endemic to California's central valleys and coast ranges.	Present. Observed during avian surveys in autumn 2008. Suitable habitat is present in oak woodlands, grasslands, and agricultural fields within the Project site and transmission corridor.
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i> Nuttall's woodpecker	BCC	Resident. A relatively common species in much of its range. Occurs in woodlands, primarily those dominated by oaks.	Present. eBird record from San Miguelito Road at Sudden Road.
<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i> Rock wren	Local concern	Bare rock, talus, or scree, cliff, desert, shrubland, and chaparral.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in coastal sage scrub and rocky areas within the Project site and transmission corridor. This species was observed in such habitat during avian surveys conducted in 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2016.
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i> Rufous hummingbird	BCC	Forest edges, streamsides, mountain meadows. Breeding habitat includes forest edges and clearings, and brushy second growth within the region of northern coast and mountains. Winters mostly in pine-oak woods in Mexico. Migrants	High. eBird record from Miguelito Co. Park adjacent to transmission line corridor.

Appendix C-7. Special-Status Wildlife Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Project Area

Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		occur at all elevations but more commonly in lowlands during spring, in mountain meadows during late summer and fall.	
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i> Allen's hummingbird	BCC	Brushy canyons, parks, gardens. Breeds in a variety of semi-open habitats, including open oak woods, streamside groves, well-wooded suburbs, city parks. Winters mostly in foothills and mountain forests in Mexico. Migrants also occur in high mountain meadows in late summer.	High. eBird record from Miguelito Co. Park adjacent to transmission line corridor.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> Yellow warbler	CSSC, BCC	Summer resident throughout much of Calif. Breeds in riparian vegetation close to water, including streams and wet meadows. Microhabitat used for nesting variable, but dense willow growth is typical. Occurs widely on migration.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in riparian woodlands within the Project site and transmission corridor. Individuals, including breeding pairs, were observed in arroyo willow thickets at the Project site during avian surveys conducted in 2002, 2005, 2008, and 2018.
<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i> Red-breasted sapsucker	SA	Breeds in mixed coniferous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests and woodlands. Requires standing snags or hollow trees for nesting cavity.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands within the Project site and transmission corridor. An individual was observed flying over the site on Sudden Road at the border of VAFB during avian surveys conducted during autumn 2017.
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i> Lawrence's goldfinch	BCC, Local concern	A summer visitor in coastal So. Calif., generally uncommon and local. Typically found in arid open woodlands, including oak savannah. Breeding distribution is erratic from year to year.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in oak woodland and chaparral within the Project site and transmission corridor. Observed on Sudden Road at the border of VAFB during avian surveys conducted during spring 2017. Also detected during point count surveys in 2018.
<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> California least tern	FE, SE, CFP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas.	Not Likely to Occur. Project area is too far from coastal areas and does not support suitable habitat.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> Least Bell's vireo	FE, SE	Summer visitor. Breeds in riparian woodland and scrub along perennial or nearly perennial streams; prefers early successional vegetation. Willows and mulefat typically used for nesting.	Low. Suitable habitat is present in riparian willow thickets within the Project area. Species not observed during any Project surveys. Suitable habitat also exists along San Miguelito Creek and the transmission corridor. There are no CNDDDB, eBird, or iNaturalist records within 15 miles of Project area.
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> Yellow-headed blackbird	CSSC	Prefer to breed in freshwater wetlands with dense, emergent vegetation (i.e., cattails).	Present. Two individuals were observed during 2018 point count surveys.
MAMMALS			
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> Pallid bat	CSSC, WBWG	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Roost sites include old ranch buildings, rocky outcrops and caves within sandstone outcroppings. Roosts	Present. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands, coastal sage scrub, and woodlands throughout the Project area. Calls identified as this species were recorded during bat surveys

Appendix C-7. Special-Status Wildlife Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Project Area

Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	conducted in autumn 2008, spring 2017, and summer/fall of 2018.
<i>Bassariscus astutus</i> Ringtail cat	CFP	Occurs in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, oak woodlands, and riparian woodlands in proximity to permanent water.	Moderate. Suitable habitat is present within the Project area.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	CST, CSSC, WBWG	Wide variety of habitats but most common in mesic sites. Day roosts highly associated with caves and mines. Need appropriate roosting, maternity, and hibernacula sites free from human disturbance.	High. Suitable habitat is present throughout the Project area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 0.13 mile north of the Project area in La Honda Canyon. Also recorded on VAFB during surveys in 1997-1998
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> Western mastiff bat	CSSC, WBWG	Wide variety of open, arid and semi-arid habitats. Distribution appears to be tied to large rock structures which provide suitable roosting sites, including cliff crevices and cracks in boulders.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in grasslands, woodlands, and coastal sage scrub throughout the Project area. Calls identified as this species were recorded during bat surveys conducted in autumn 2008.
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i> Silver-haired bat	WBWG	Primarily a coastal & montane forest dweller feeding over streams, ponds & open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees, beneath exfoliating bark, abandoned woodpecker holes & rarely under rocks. Needs drinking water.	High. Suitable habitat is present throughout the Project area. The nearest occurrence in the CNDDDB was recorded 0.3 mile east of the Project area in Miguelito Co. Park. Also recorded on VAFB during surveys in 1997-1998.
<i>Lasiurus blossevillei</i> Western red bat	CSSC, WBWG	Typically solitary, roosting primarily in the foliage of trees or shrubs. Day roosts are commonly in edge habitats adjacent to streams or open fields. There may be an association with intact riparian habitat.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands within the Project area. Calls identified as possibly this species were recorded during bat surveys conducted in autumn 2008. However, these calls could not be distinguished from the non-special-status canyon bat (<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>) calls due to their acoustic similarity. These calls could have been from either species or a combination of both. However, this species was positively identified onsite during surveys in late summer/fall of 2018.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> Hoary bat	WBWG	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover & open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in coastal sage scrub and grassland habitats nearby woodlands and riparian thickets throughout the Project area. Calls identified as this species were recorded during bat surveys conducted in 2008 and summer/fall of 2018.
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> Western small-footed myotis	WBWG	Wide range of habitats mostly arid wooded and brushy uplands near water. Seeks cover in caves, buildings, mines, and crevices. Prefers open stands in forests and woodlands. Requires drinking water. Feeds on a wide variety of small flying insects.	Moderate. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands and coastal sage scrub within the Project area. Not recorded during multiple Project surveys. There are no occurrences of this species within the 9-quadrangle in the CNDDDB or iNaturalist.
<i>Myotis evotis</i> Long-eared myotis	WBWG	Found in all brush, woodland and forest habitats from sea level to about 9,000 feet. Prefers coniferous woodlands and forests. Nursery	Present. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands within the Project area. Calls identified as this species were recorded in oak woodlands in

Appendix C-7. Special-Status Wildlife Potentially Occurring in the Proposed Project Area

Species	Status	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur
		colonies in buildings, crevices, spaces under bark, and snags. Caves used primarily as night roosts.	the east of the Project site during bat surveys conducted in 2008 and 2017.
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i> Fringed myotis	WBWG	Wide variety of habitats, including various woodland types. Buildings, mines and large snags are important day and night roosts.	Low. Woodlands in the Project area provide potential habitat. However, this species is usually associated with coniferous forest habitats at higher elevations.
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> Yuma myotis	WBWG	Preferred habitats are open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed. Distribution is closely tied to bodies of water. Maternity colonies occur in caves, mines, buildings, or crevices.	Present. Suitable habitat is present in woodlands within the Project area. Calls identified as possibly this species were recorded during bat surveys conducted in 2008 and 2017. However, these calls could not be distinguished from the non-special-status Calif. myotis (<i>Myotis californica</i>) calls due to their acoustic similarity. These calls could have been from either species or a combination of both. However, this species was positively identified during surveys in summer/fall of 2018.
<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i> Big free-tailed bat	CSSC, WBWG	Rare in Calif. Prefers rugged, rocky canyons. Likely does not breed in Calif.; vagrants found in fall and winter. Roosts in buildings, caves, and occasionally cavities in trees. Also roosts in crevices in high cliffs and rock outcrops.	Present. Detected during acoustical surveys in late summer/fall of 2018 (rare; total of 3 minutes recorded).
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	CSSC	Coastal scrub of So. Calif. from San Diego Co. to San Luis Obispo Co. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. Particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs, & slopes.	High. Suitable habitat occurs throughout the Project site and transmission corridor.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	CSSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Requires friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents.	Present. Evidence of badger dens, digs, and inactive burrows was observed during 2002/2005 surveys on the Sudden Corridor to the East and North Corridor. Grasslands throughout Project area provide suitable habitat.

Federal Rankings:

FE = Federally Endangered
 FT = Federally Threatened
 FC = Federal Candidate for Listing
 BCC = USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern

State Rankings:

SE= State Endangered
 ST = State Threatened
 CSE = Candidate for State listing as Endangered
 CST = Candidate for State listing as Threatened
 CFP = California Fully Protected
 SA = CDFW Special Animal
 WL = CDFW Watch List
 CSSC = California Species of Special Concern
 WBWG = Western Bat Work Group Species of Concern

Source: CDFW, 2018; eBird, 2018; iNaturalist, 2018; Sapphos, 2018; Dudek, 2018a; Dudek, 2018b