

2019090176

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): CA Dept of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080

(Address)

Project Title: Roberti Monitoring Well Installation Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located on the Roberti Ranch property, located within the Sierra Valley approximately 5 miles southwest of the town of Vinton in Plumas County. (Latitude: 39°46'39.80"N, Longitude: 120°16'5.79"W)

Project Location - City: Vinton Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

DWR is proposing to install a multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well, which will be incorporated into the larger Sierra Valley Basin groundwater elevation monitoring program, future subsidence monitoring network, and the Sierra Valley Basin Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15306. Information Collection
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____


Reasons why project is exempt:

The installation of the monitoring well will be used to measure groundwater elevations. Proposed activities are not anticipated to impact any environmental resources, including scenic resources, cultural resources or special status plants or wildlife species. The project will not result in any significant impact to the environment.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Brian Humphrey Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 529-7307

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature:  Date: 9/6/19 Title: Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: SEP 06 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NORTHERN REGION OFFICE
2440 MAIN STREET
RED BLUFF, CA 96080-2356



September 6, 2019

State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Post Office Box 3044
Sacramento, California 95812-3044
E-mail: State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Subject: CEQA Notice of Exemption – Roberti Monitoring Well Installation

The purpose of this letter is to submit the enclosed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption form (Appendix E) and Determination Memo (form DWR 100a) to install a multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well approximately 5 miles southwest of the town of Vinton in Plumas County. The California Department of Water Resources is proposing to install the observation well on the property owned by Roberti Ranch Inc., located approximately 2.2 miles south of Highway 70. The Roberti multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well will be incorporated into the larger Sierra Valley groundwater elevation monitoring program and be one of the key groundwater elevation monitoring wells used as part of a future ground subsidence monitoring network and the Sierra Valley Basin Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan.

The completed well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet and consist of three to four discrete monitoring zones to be determined by the site geologist/engineer after the completion of the test hole and downhole geophysical survey. The well will be drilled with a rotary drill rig and mud pump. Other necessary equipment onsite may include a pipe truck, water truck, cement truck, backhoe, front-end loader, and support vehicles.

The proposed multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well installation is for information gathering purposes and falls under Categorical Exemption described in CEQA Guidelines §15306 for Information Collection (Class 6). Proposed activities are not anticipated to result in any significant impact to the environment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (530) 529-7307.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Humphrey".

Brian Humphrey, Environmental Scientist
Environmental Services Section

Enclosures

OFFICE MEMO

TO: Debbie Spangler Engineering Geologist Northern Region Office	DATE: August 26, 2019
FROM: Brian Humphrey Environmental Scientist Environmental Services Section Northern Region Office	SUBJECT: CEQA Notice of Exemption – Roberti Monitoring Well Installation

Project Location: The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Northern Region Office is proposing to install a multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well in Sierra Valley approximately 5 miles southwest of the town of Vinton in Plumas County (Figure 1). The observation well will be installed on the property owned by Roberti Ranch Inc. (APN 010-070-046-000), located approximately 2.2 miles south of Highway 70. The legal description is Section 11 of Township 22N, Range 15E based on the Reconnaissance Peak United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' quadrangle.

Purpose: The proposed multi-completion groundwater elevation observation well will be incorporated into the larger Sierra Valley Basin groundwater elevation monitoring program and be one of the key groundwater elevation monitoring wells used as part of a future ground subsidence monitoring network and the Sierra Valley Basin Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan.

Project Description: The completed well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet and consist of three to four discrete monitoring zones to be determined by the site geologist/engineer after the completion of the test hole and downhole geophysical survey. The well will be drilled with a rotary drill rig and mud pump. Other necessary equipment on site may include a pipe truck, water truck, cement truck, backhoe, front-end loader, and support vehicles. The following are steps involved with the proposed drilling process:

1. An 8-inch diameter test hole will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet.
2. A downhole geophysics survey and well design will be completed based on the test hole, which will determine the number, depth, and type of casings and material to be placed within the well.
3. The test hole will then be enlarged to approximately 18 inches in diameter to house three to four 2-inch PVC or steel casings placed at different depths with the deepest at approximately 1,000 feet. During the drilling operations, all drilling fluid (freshwater and bentonite) will be contained in a recirculation system with drilling cuttings separated with a shaker.
4. Well casings will be placed in the hole at different depths and backfilled with sand and/or bentonite. When the mud is thinned for well construction, the excess drilling fluid will be pumped into a bermed area, measuring approximately 30 feet by 30 feet, depending on the volume of fluid.
5. A sanitary seal will be installed at the surface, which will entail placing concrete and/or bentonite in the upper 20 feet of the hole.
6. Fresh groundwater will then be circulated from the well to flush drilling fluid from the surface of the geologic formation and annular material.
7. A four- to five-foot square concrete slab will be poured around the 2-inch well casings, which will be contained within 24- to 36-inch diameter steel well housing measuring approximately 3.5 feet in height with a locking lid.
8. The excess drilling cuttings and mud will be disposed and stored on-site and used by the landowner.

9. The site will be cleaned of trash and debris, while equipment and materials will be removed.

The proposed activities are anticipated to take three weeks to complete and are currently scheduled to take place during the fall of 2019 or spring/summer of 2020.

Environmental Setting: The project area is situated at approximately 4,900 feet in elevation in a rural setting within the Sierra Valley. The topography is relatively flat across the basin floor, which serves as a flood plain to the neighboring Sierras. The entire project area has been previously disturbed and is currently being used for the staging of vehicles, farm equipment, supplies, and alfalfa. A farm access road extends along the west side of the project limits with an irrigation ditch extending across the north end of the project limits ([Figures 2 and 3](#)). The surrounding land use consists primarily of livestock grazing with several barn structures located to the south and a sand mining operation located north of the project area. No trees are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area, while vegetation within the project area consists primarily of non-native ruderal grasses, such as alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and clover species (*Trifolium sp.*).

Biological Resources: California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was used to create a map to depict special status plant and wildlife species documented within ten miles of the project site ([Figure 4](#)). Based on a literature search and CDFW's CNDDDB, a list of special status plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur within the project vicinity was compiled and evaluated ([Appendices A and B](#)). The project limits were surveyed on July 25, 2019 to identify any potential biological resources within and adjacent to the project area. As previously mentioned, the entire project area has been previously disturbed with vegetation consisting primarily of non-native ruderal grasses with no overstory vegetation within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

Flora

Wetlands and/or other Special Aquatic Habitats:

No work will take place within any jurisdictional wetlands, waters of the U.S., or other special aquatic habitats.

Invasive Plant Species:

Proposed activities are not anticipated to be responsible for the introduction or the spread of existing noxious weeds.

Special Status Plant Species:

The project site was surveyed for rare or special status plant species. All proposed activities will take place on previously disturbed areas where there is low potential suitable habitat for special status or rare plant species to occur. The proposed project is not anticipated to impact special status or rare plant species ([Appendix A](#)).

Fauna

Special Status Bat Species:

The foliage and/or bark of large trees and small crevices and/or cavities within the adjacent barn structures have the potential to provide day roosting habitat for several special status bat species, such as the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). No large trees are located near the proposed drilling site, while the barn structures are located over 700 feet from the proposed drilling site. Therefore, no impacts to bat species are anticipated as a result of the proposed activities associated with the project.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA):

Migratory birds, their occupied nests, and their eggs are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.); Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations part 10, and DFG Code Sections 3503, 3513, and

3800. The typical nesting window for migratory and special status bird species within the project area is from February 15 through August 31, which also includes nesting raptors. Since the project area and immediate adjacent areas are absent of any overstory vegetation, the project area does not provide suitable nesting habitat for many tree-nesting birds, including special status bird species, such as bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The adjacent barn structures also provide potential nesting habitat for several bird species, including cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), but are located far enough away; the proposed drilling is not anticipated to affect their nesting behavior. In addition, ground nesting birds are not anticipated to nest within the project limits, since the project area has been previously disturbed and is actively used to stage farm equipment and materials. Proposed activities are not anticipated to affect nesting migratory birds, their occupied nests, or their eggs.

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*):

The Swainson's hawk is a State threatened species, which typically nests between March 1 and August 1 in stands with few trees within juniper/sage, riparian, or oak savannah habitats. Grasslands adjacent to the project area provide potential foraging habitat, but no nesting habitat is located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The nearest documented Swainson's hawk nest is located approximately 6.8 miles northeast of the project site. Since no potential nesting habitat is located near the proposed activities, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact Swainson's hawks.

Greater Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*)

The greater sandhill crane is a State threatened species, which historically nested in the northeastern portion of California, while wintering in wetland habitats within the Central Valley. Nesting generally takes place in remote areas of large mounds of wetland plants, in shallow water, ideally on small islands screened by tall vegetation. Foraging habitat includes meadows, irrigated pastures, grain fields, bogs, fens, marshes, and nearby fields with potential food sources consisting of a variety of grains and seeds as well as aquatic invertebrates, insects, small reptiles, amphibians, eggs, and rodents. The closest nesting pair has been documented approximately 4.5 miles west of the project area. No suitable nesting habitat is located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Therefore, the proposed activities are not anticipated to affect greater sandhill cranes.

Biological Resources Summary:

Proposed activities associated with the project are not anticipated to result in impacts to sensitive habitats or special status plant or wildlife species.

Cultural Resources: No historic or prehistoric cultural resources were recorded within a quarter mile of the project site, while no cultural resources were recorded or observed during a field survey conducted on July 25, 2019. The proposed project and associated activities will have no effect on cultural resources.

Should any of the above project plans be modified to include work that will disturb the ground surface in areas not reviewed by this memo, additional studies will be required. If cultural resources are uncovered while engaging in construction activities, all work will temporarily cease until the findings can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist and an appropriate course of action can be determined. Should human remains be uncovered, all work must stop immediately, and the County coroner must be contacted pursuant to California Health and Safety Code 7050.5(b).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In an effort to reduce its impact on the environment, DWR has developed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (GGERP) to guide its project development and decision making with respect to energy use and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The GGERP provides an analysis of GHG emissions from most DWR activities. In most cases, DWR projects that are completing CEQA documents can rely on the GGERP

analysis when analyzing project impacts for GHG emissions. DWR projects that use outside contractors to complete work for DWR must inventory emissions from the activities of these contractors. Project GHG emissions were estimated, analyzed, and determined to be consistent with DWR's GGERP, and the greenhouse gases emitted by the project are covered by the plan's analysis.

Hazardous Waste: The Cortese List is a compilation of contaminated sites identified by the California State Water Resource Control Board; active, closed, and inactive landfills identified by the Integrated Waste Management Board; and hazardous waste sites identified by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). This list was reviewed as part of the initial screening for the project, and the proposed project is not within or impacting any site on the Cortese List.

Permits: No regulatory permits (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, or California Department of Fish and Wildlife) will be required since the proposed activities will not impact wetlands and/or riparian vegetation, place fill within or dredge material from waters of the U.S., or substantially change the streambed or streambank.

Conservation Measures / Best Management Practices:

1. If previously unidentified cultural materials are revealed during project-related activities, work shall be halted in the immediate vicinity until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. An additional archaeological survey may be required if the project limits expand beyond the area reviewed for cultural resources. If human remains are uncovered, all work must stop immediately, and the County coroner must be contacted pursuant to California Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5(b).
2. Hazardous materials associated with construction activities must be stored and used in accordance with practices that prevent them from polluting receiving waters.
3. Equipment must be kept in good working order and any petroleum or lubricant spills must be cleaned up immediately and reported to Northern Region Office, Environmental Services Section.
4. All trash and debris must be removed at the end of the project.

Summary: The proposed project is not anticipated to impact any environmental resources, including scenic resources, cultural resources, hazardous waste sites, sensitive habitats, and special status plants or wildlife species. Overall, proposed activities are not anticipated to result in any significant impact to the environment.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Implementing Project: California Department of Water Resources

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

- Categorical Exemption 15306. Information Collection (Class 6): Exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that do not result in major disturbances to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person and Phone: Brian Humphrey (530) 529-7307

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

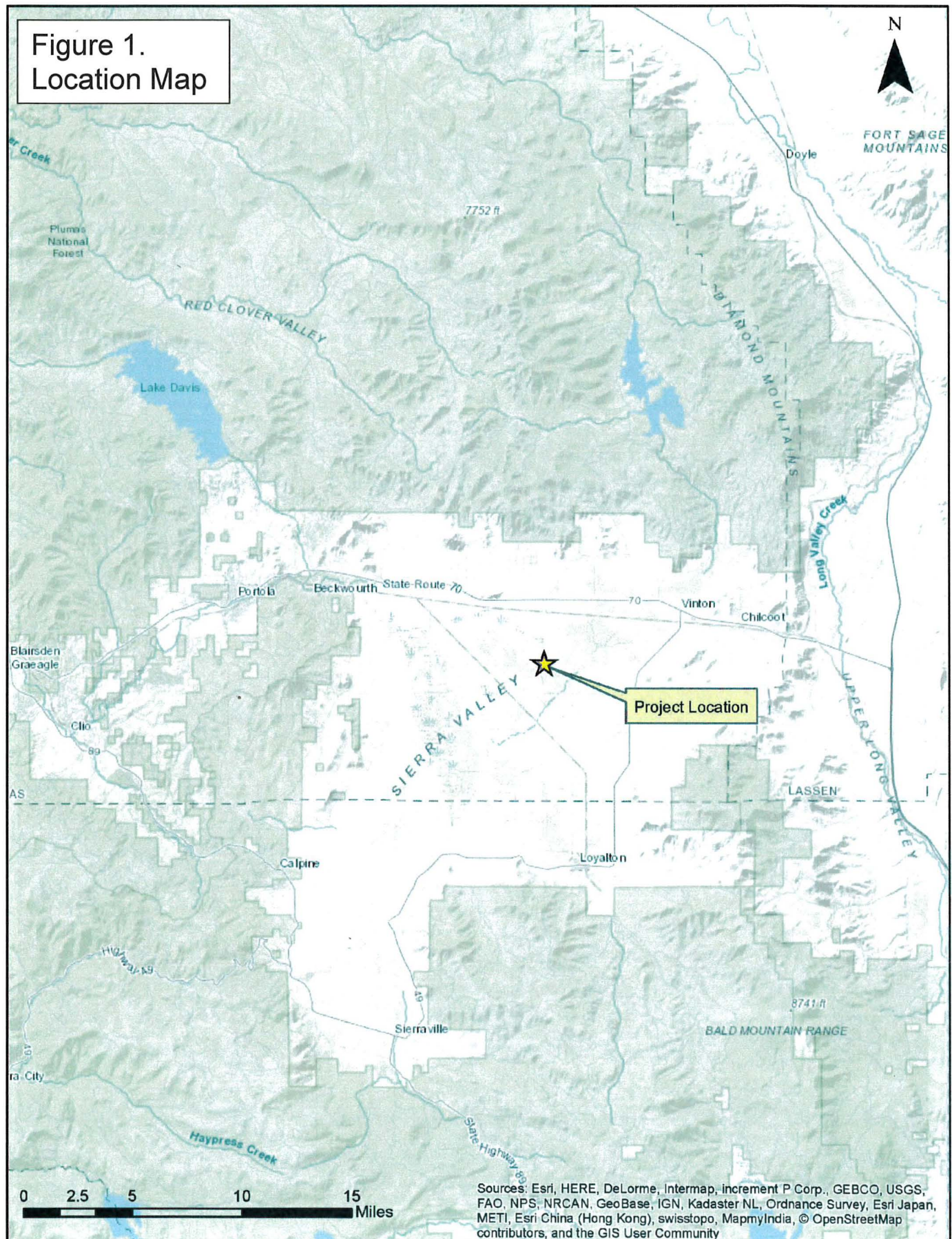


Figure 2.
Environmental Study Limits

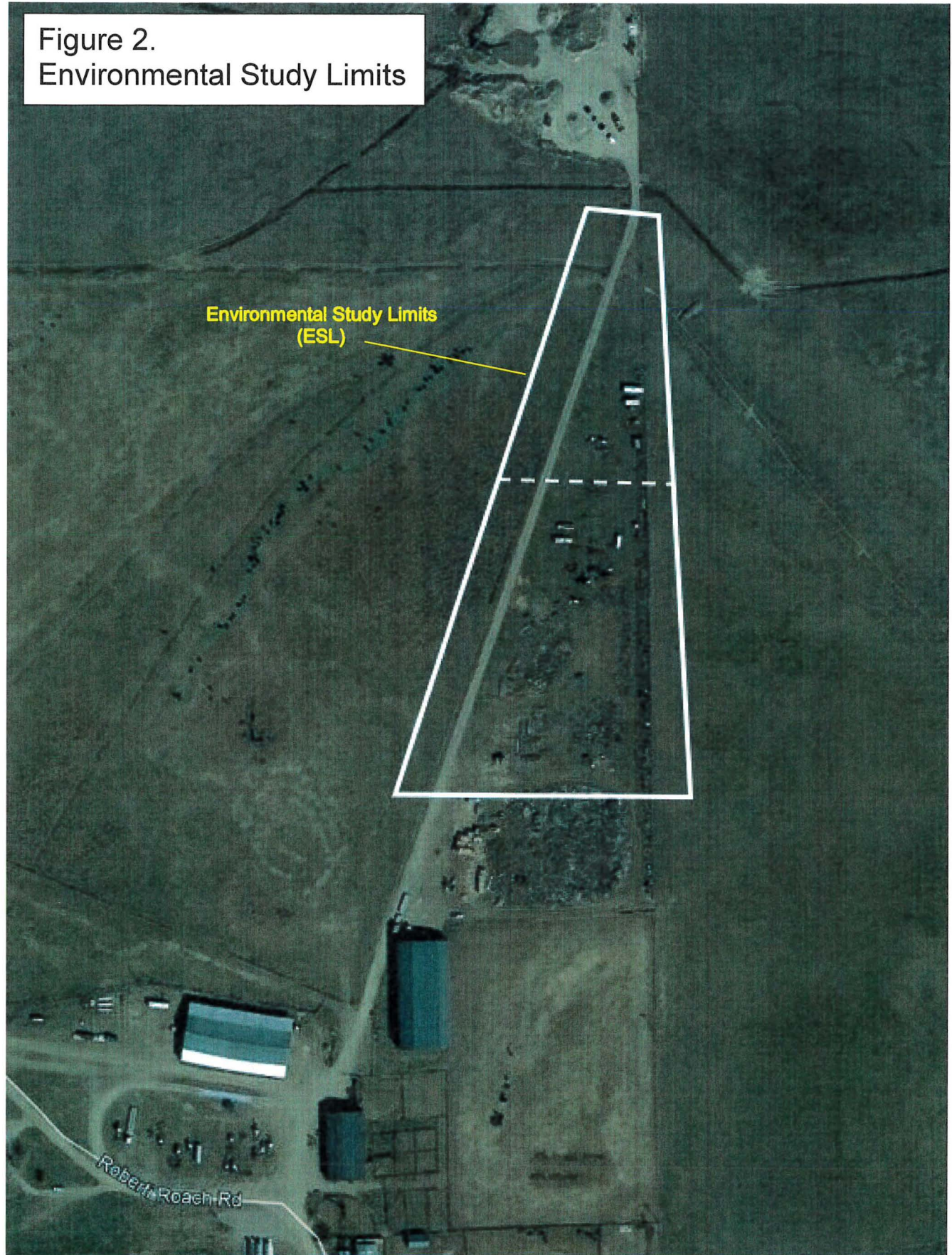


Figure 3. Property Photos

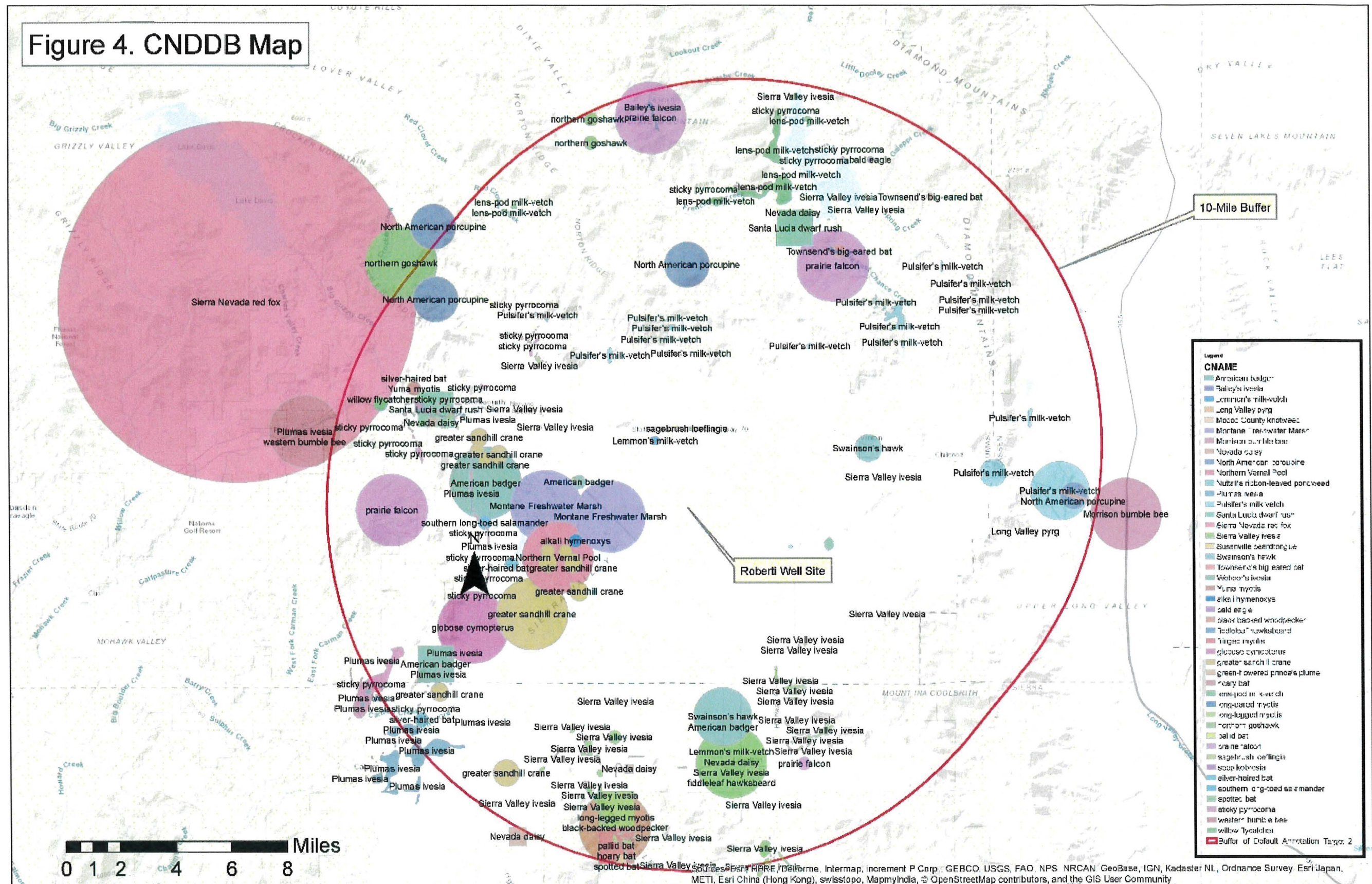


Looking north from middle of environmental study limits (ESL).



Looking south from north end of environmental study limits (ESL).

Figure 4. CNDDDB Map



Appendix A.
Potential Special Status Plant Species Table

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation: August 5, 2019

Scientific Name Common Name	Legal Status*		Distribution	Habitat Associations	Identification Period (Blooms)	Potential to Occur at the Project Site
	Federal/State/CNPS					
<i>Astragalus lemmonii</i> Lemmon's milk-vetch	FSS/--/1B.2		Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Shasta, Sierra, Mono	Great Basin scrub, Meadows and seeps, Marshes and swamps (lake shores). 4199 to 7218 ft.	May-Aug	None, no suitable habitat.
<i>Astragalus lentiformis</i> lens-pod milk-vetch	FSS/--/1B.2		Plumas	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest. Elev. 4,790-6,266 ft. Shallow bare, dry, volcanic soils among sagebrush and bunchgrass, some with Jeffrey pines.	May-Jul	Moderate
<i>Astragalus pulziferae</i> var. <i>pulziferae</i> Pulsifer's milk-vetch	FSS/--/1B.2		Lassen, Plumas, Sierra Counties, NV	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland. 4265-5905 ft. Volcanic substrate, sometimes in clay; sandy or rocky soil, often with pines or sagebrush.	May-Aug	Moderate
<i>Crepis runcinata</i> fiddleleaf hawkbeard	--/--/2B.2		Inyo, Mono, NV	Mohavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland / mesic, alkaline	May-Jul	None, no suitable habitat
<i>Cymopterus globosus</i> globose cymopterus	--/--/2B.2		Mono, Plumas, NV, UT	Great Basin scrub/sandy, open flats. 3937-7005 ft. Known in California from fewer than five occurrences.	Mar-Jun	Moderate
<i>Erigeron eatonii</i> var. <i>nevadensis</i> Nevada daisy	--/--/2B.3		Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Placer, Nevada	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland/rocky. 4593-9514 feet.	May-Jul	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Hymenoxys lemmonii</i> alkali hymenoxys	--/--/2B.2		Siskiyou, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, and Sierra Counties.	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps (subalkaline soils). 800 - 3275 ft.	Jun-Aug	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Ivesia aperta</i> var. <i>aperta</i> Sierra Valley ivesia	FSS/--/1B.2		Lassen, Plumas, Nevada, and Sierra Counties	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows (sometimes xeric), and pinyon and juniper woodland, usually in loamy soils derived from volcanics. Grassy areas within sagebrush scrub or other communities. 1,480-2,300 m.	Jun-Sep	Moderate

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Scientific Name Common Name	Legal Status*		Distribution	Habitat Associations	Identification Period (Blooms)	Potential to Occur at the Project Site
	Federal/State/CNPS					
<i>Ivesia baileyi</i> var. <i>baileyi</i> Bailey's ivesia	--/--/2B.3		Lassen, Plumas, ID, NV, OR	Lower montane coniferous forest (volcanic, rocky). 4396 - 8530 ft. Known in California from approximately 15 occurrences. Rocky volcanic outcrops.	May-Aug	None, no suitable habitat.
<i>Ivesia sericoleuca</i> Plumas ivesia	--/--/1B.2		Lassen, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, and Sierra Counties	Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, moist to dry rocky meadows, vernal pools / vernal mesic, usually on volcanic soils. Elev. 4298-7218 ft.	May-Oct	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Ivesia webberi</i> Webber's ivesia	FSS/--/1B.1		Plumas, Lassen, Sierra, Nevada	Great Basin scrub on volcanic ash, lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon & juniper woodland/sandy or gravelly. Rocky, volcanic soils. 3280-6807ft. (Known in CA from only Sierra and Dog valleys.)	May-Jul	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	FSS/--/1B.2		Lassen, Monterey, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Benito, San Diego, Shasta, San Luis Obispo	Chaparral, Great Basin Scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows, vernal pools. Ephemeral drainages, wet meadow habitats and streambeds. 984-6692ft.	Apr-Jul	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Kobresia myosuroides</i> reep kobresia	--/--/2B.2		Mono, ID, OR,	Alpine boulder and rock field (mesic), Meadows (carbonate), Subalpine coniferous forest	Aug	None, no suitable habitat.
<i>Loeflingia squarrosa</i> var. <i>artemisiarum</i> sagebrush loeflingia	--/--/2B.2		Inyo, Kern, Lassen, Los Angeles, Plumas, San Bernardino, NV, OR, WY. / sandy.	Desert dunes, Great Basin scrub, Sonoran desert scrub / sandy. 5577 - 5299 ft.	Apr-May	None, no suitable habitat.
<i>Penstemon sudans</i> Susanville beardtongue	FSS/--/1B.2		Lassen, Modoc, Plumas counties, Nevada	Limited to area near Susanville/ Great basin scrub, Pinyon & Juniper woodland. Lower montane coniferous forest/ Open - often volcanic, rocky areas & sometimes roadsides. 3937 - 7956 ft.	Jun-Jul (Aug)(SEP)	None, no suitable habitat.

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Scientific Name Common Name	Legal Status*	Distribution	Habitat Associations	Identification Period (Bloom:)	Potential to Occur at the Project Site
	Federal/State/CNPS				
<i>Polygonum polygaloides</i> ssp. <i>esotericum</i> Modoc County knotweed	--/--/1B.3	Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra	Great Basin scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, edges of seasonal lakes and ponds with <i>Deschampsia</i> , <i>Navaretia</i> , etc., Vernal pools. 2903-5545 ft.	May-Sep	Low, no suitable habitat.
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i> Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	--/--/2B.2	Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, El Dorado, Madera, Mendocino, Mariposa, Tuolumne	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater). 1211-7126 feet.	Jul-Sept	None, no suitable habitat.
<i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i> Sticky pyrrocoma	--/--/1B.2	Plumas, Sierra, Lassen, and Yuba Counties	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows & seeps. Alkaline flats, clay soils. 2296-6397 ft. (California: non wetland and yellow pine forest)	Jul-Aug	Moderate
<i>Stanleya viridiflora</i> green-flowered pince's plume	--/--/2B.3	Lassen, Plumas, ID, NV, OR, UT, WY	Great Basin scrub (white ash deposits). 4265-5249 ft.	May-Aug	None, no suitable habitat.

* Status Explanations:

Federal

- = No status definition.
FSS = Forest Service sensitive species

State

- = No status definition.

California Native Plant Society

Appendix B.
Potential Special Status Wildlife Species Table

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Common Name	Legal Status*			Potential to
Scientific Name	Federal/State	Distribution	Habitat Associations	Occur at the Project Site
Western bumble bee <i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	FSS/--	Historically from the Pacific coast to the Colorado Rocky Mountains; severe decline west of the Sierra Cascade Crest, but populations are known from the Great Basin, the Rocky Mountains and Alaska.	Associated food plant include melilotus, cirsium, trifolium, centaurea, chrysanthamnus, and erigonum.	Low.
Silver-haired bat <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	--/--	Coastal and montane forests from the Oregon border south along the coast to San Francisco Bay and along the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin region to Inyo County.	Primarily a coastal and montane forest dweller, feeding over streams, ponds, and open brushy areas. Roosts in hollow trees (abandoned woodpecker holes), snags, buildings, rock crevices, caves, and under bark.	Low, adjacent structures could provide potential day roosting habitat.
Spotted bat <i>Eudernia maculatum</i>	--/SC	The species has a scattered distribution throughout California. Records indicate the species found is in Kern County (Red Rock Canyon State Park, Indian Wells Valley), Riverside County (Mecca), Inyo County (Owens Valley). Recent surveys reveal that several mountain sites in Shasta and Siskiyou counties are occupied by the species. Individuals occur in the Sierra Nevada region are found between 3500-4000 ft in elevation, but auditory dictation indicates that the species could occur up to 8500ft. Other auditory detections claim that individuals have been heard from Mt. Palomar in San Diego County and near Bishop, Inyo County. An actual roost site was discovered in the cliffs at Owen's George, Mono County.	The species inhabit a variety of habitats ranging from below sea level in the deserts of California to as high as the coniferous forest at 9800ft. The species forage in arid or Ponderosa Pine forests and marshlands. They roost in small cracks found in cliffs and stony outcrops.	None, no suitable habitat.

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Common Name	Legal Status*			Potential to Occur at the Project Site
Scientific Name	Federal/State	Distribution	Habitat Associations	
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	DL/E,FP	Nests in Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Butte, Tehama, Lake, and Mendocino Counties and in the Lake Tahoe Basin; reintroduced into central coast. Winter range includes the rest of California, except the southeastern deserts, very high altitudes in the Sierras, and east of the Sierra Nevada south of Mono County; range expanding	In western North America, nests and roosts in coniferous forests within 5249 ft or a mile of a lake, reservoir, stream, or the ocean. Breeding seasons are between January and July or August.	Low. Large trees in project vicinity provide potential nesting habitat.
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	BCC/T	Lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, the Klamath Basin, and Butte Valley; highest nesting densities occur near Davis and Woodland, Yolo County	Nests in oaks or cottonwoods in or near riparian habitats; forages in grasslands, irrigated pastures, and grain fields	Moderate, large trees in project vicinity provide potential nesting habitat.
Northern Goshawk (North American pop.) <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	FSS/SC	Permanent resident in the Klamath and Cascade Ranges, in the north Coast Ranges from Del Norte County to Mendocino County, and in the Sierra Nevada south to Kern County. Winters in Modoc, Lassen, Mono, and northern Inyo Counties.	Nests and roosts in older stands of red fir, Jeffrey pine, lodgepole pine, and aspens. Nesting usually occurs on the north slopes near water.	Unlikely. No suitable habitat.

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Common Name Scientific Name	Legal Status*		Distribution	Habitat Associations	Potential to Occur at the Project Site
	Federal/State				
Prairie falcon <i>Falco mexicanus (nesting)</i>	--/--		Permanent resident in the south Coast, Transverse, Peninsular, and northern Cascade Ranges, the southeastern deserts, Inyo-White Mountains, foothills surrounding the Central Valley, and in the Sierra Nevada in Modoc, Lassen, and Plumas Counties. Winters in the Central Valley, along the coast from Santa Barbara County to San Diego County, and in Marin, Sonoma, Humboldt, Del Norte, and Inyo Counties.	Nests on cliffs or escarpments, usually overlooking dry, open terrain or uplands. Forages far afield to marshlands and ocean shores.	Low, no suitable habitat.
Greater sandhill crane <i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	FSS/T		Breeds in Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties. Winters in the Central Valley, southern Imperial County, Lake Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, and the Colorado River Indian Reserve.	Summers in open terrain near shallow lakes or freshwater marshes. Winters in plains and valleys near bodies of fresh water.	Moderate, large open areas provide suitable habitat.
Willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	FSS/E		Summers along the western Sierra Nevada from El Dorado to Madera County, in the Cascade and northern Sierra Nevada in Trinity, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Butte, and Plumas Counties, and along the eastern Sierra Nevada from Lassen to Inyo County.	Riparian dominated with willows, alder, & creek dogwood, or deciduous vegetation/ Permanent water such as wet meadows within or adjacent to forested landscape. Prefer open area. Usually found in riparian habitats during migration.	None, no suitable habitat.
Fringed myotis <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	FSS/--		Occurs throughout California except the southeastern deserts and the Central Valley	Wide variety of habitats from low desert scrub to high elevation coniferous forests; day and night roosts in caves, mines, trees, buildings, and rock crevices	Low, adjacent structures could provide potential day roosting habitat.

Sierra Valley (Roberti Ranch) Monitoring Well Installation; August 5, 2019

Common Name	Legal Status*			Potential to
Scientific Name	Federal/State	Distribution	Habitat Associations	Occur at the Project Site
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	SC/SC	Common and widespread throughout most of California except the Colorado and Mojave deserts	Found in a wide variety of habitats from 0 to 11007 ft, uncommon above 7251 ft; optimal habitat is open forests and woodlands near water bodies.	Low, adjacent structures could provide potential day roosting habitat.
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	--/SC	Occurs throughout California except the high Sierra from Shasta to Kern County and the northwest coast, primarily at lower and mid elevations	Occurs in a variety of habitats from desert to coniferous forest. Most closely associated with oak, yellow pine, redwood, and giant sequoia habitats in northern California and oak woodland, grassland, and desert scrub in southern California. Relies heavily on trees for roosting.	Low, adjacent structures could provide potential day roosting habitat.
long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	SC/--	Occurs throughout California except the southeastern deserts and the Central Valley	Primarily in high elevation coniferous forests, but also found in mixed hardwood/conifer, high desert, and humid coastal conifer habitat	None, no suitable habitat.
Sierra Nevada red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	C/T	Cascade Range east to the Sierra Nevada and south to Tulare County.	Coniferous forests and rugged alpine, generally from 4,000 to 12,000 feet. Often associated with mountain meadows.	Low, no suitable denning habitat.
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	--/SC	Occurs statewide except for the northwestern corner in Del Norte County and parts of Humboldt and Siskiyou Counties.	Dwell in areas with short grasses. They can be found in places like prairies, plains, farmland, and edges of woodland. Also can be found in shelter along roadways, fence rows, ditches banks, and field edges. They need habitats with deep top soils. This makes it easier for them to burrow and make dens.	Moderate.
hoary bat <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	--/--	May be found at any location in California, although distribution patchy in southeastern deserts. During migration in southern California, males are found in foothills, deserts and mountains; females in lowlands and coastal valleys.	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.	Low, adjacent structures could provide potential day roosting habitat.

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* Status Explanations:

Federal

- = No status definition.
- BCC = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Birds of Conservation
- C = species for which USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened.
- FSS = Forest Service sensitive species
- SC = species of concern; species for which existing information indicates it may warrant listing but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.

State

- = No status definition.
- E = Listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act.
- SC = Species of special concern in California.
- T = Listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.