APPENDIX B

MOORE BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

January 3, 2020

Mr. Daniel Kramer, C.E.G.
Petralogix Engineering, Inc.
212 Pine Street, Ste. 2
Lodi, CA 95240

Subject: "ELK GROVE CENTER PHASE 2" AT COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE SATELLITE CAMPUS, ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Dear Daniel:

Thank you for asking Moore Biological Consultants to assist with a biological resources assessment of the "Elk Grove Center Phase 2" project at the Cosumnes River College Satellite Campus in Elk Grove, California (Figures 1 and 2). The focus of our work was to assess the site for potentially regulated Waters of the U.S. and wetlands, and to search for special-status species or potentially suitable habitat for special-status species within and near the site. This letter summarizes information related to biological resources in or near the site that was compiled by reviewing databases and available documents, and conducting a reconnaissance-level field survey on January 2, 2020.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The Los Rios Community School District is proposing to construct a new facility located just southwest of the existing building at Cosumnes River College Satellite Campus located at 10051 Big Horn Boulevard, Elk Grove, California (Figures 1 and 2 and Site Plan in Attachment A). The area

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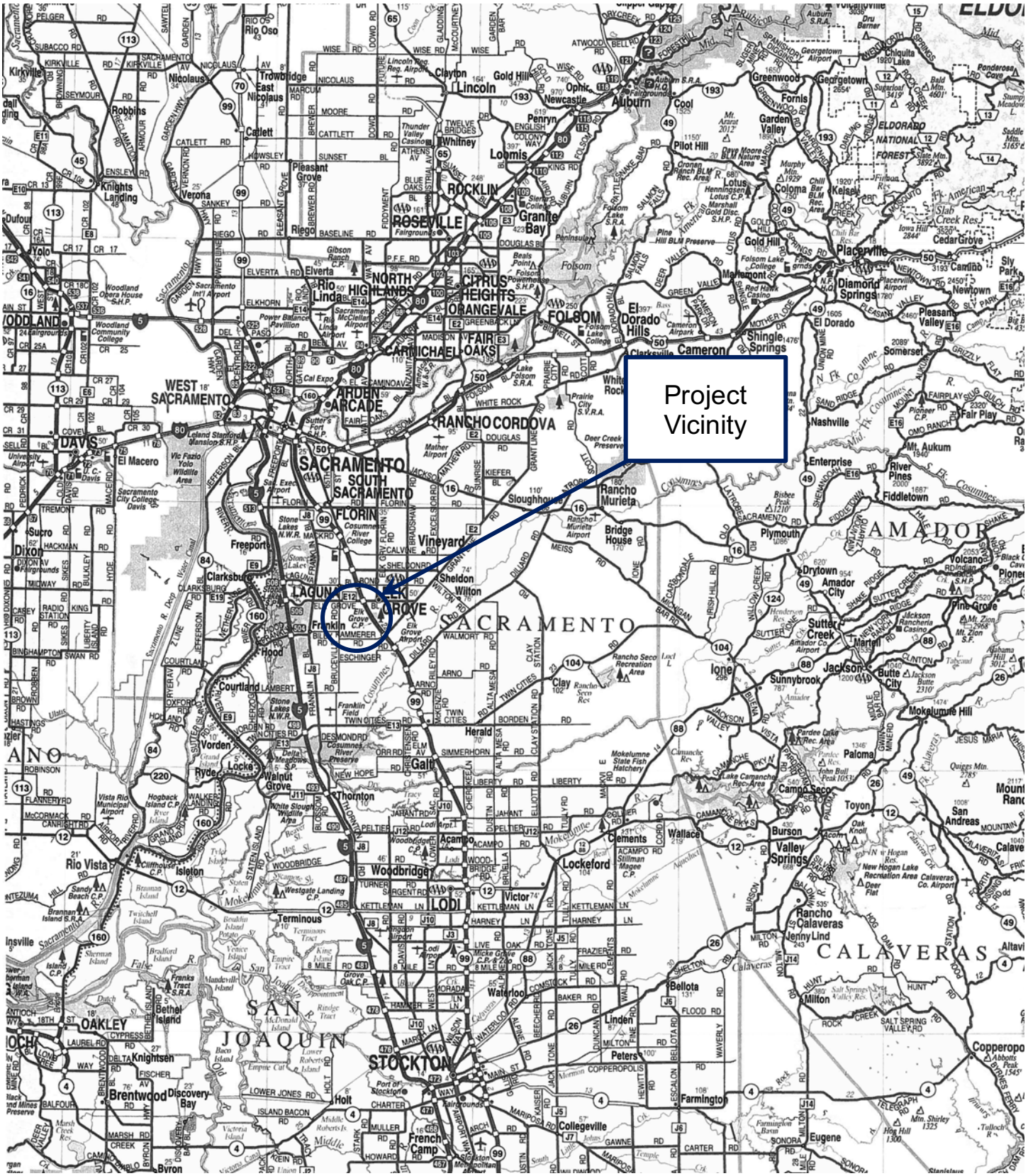

Source: California State Automobile Association

Moore Biological Consultants

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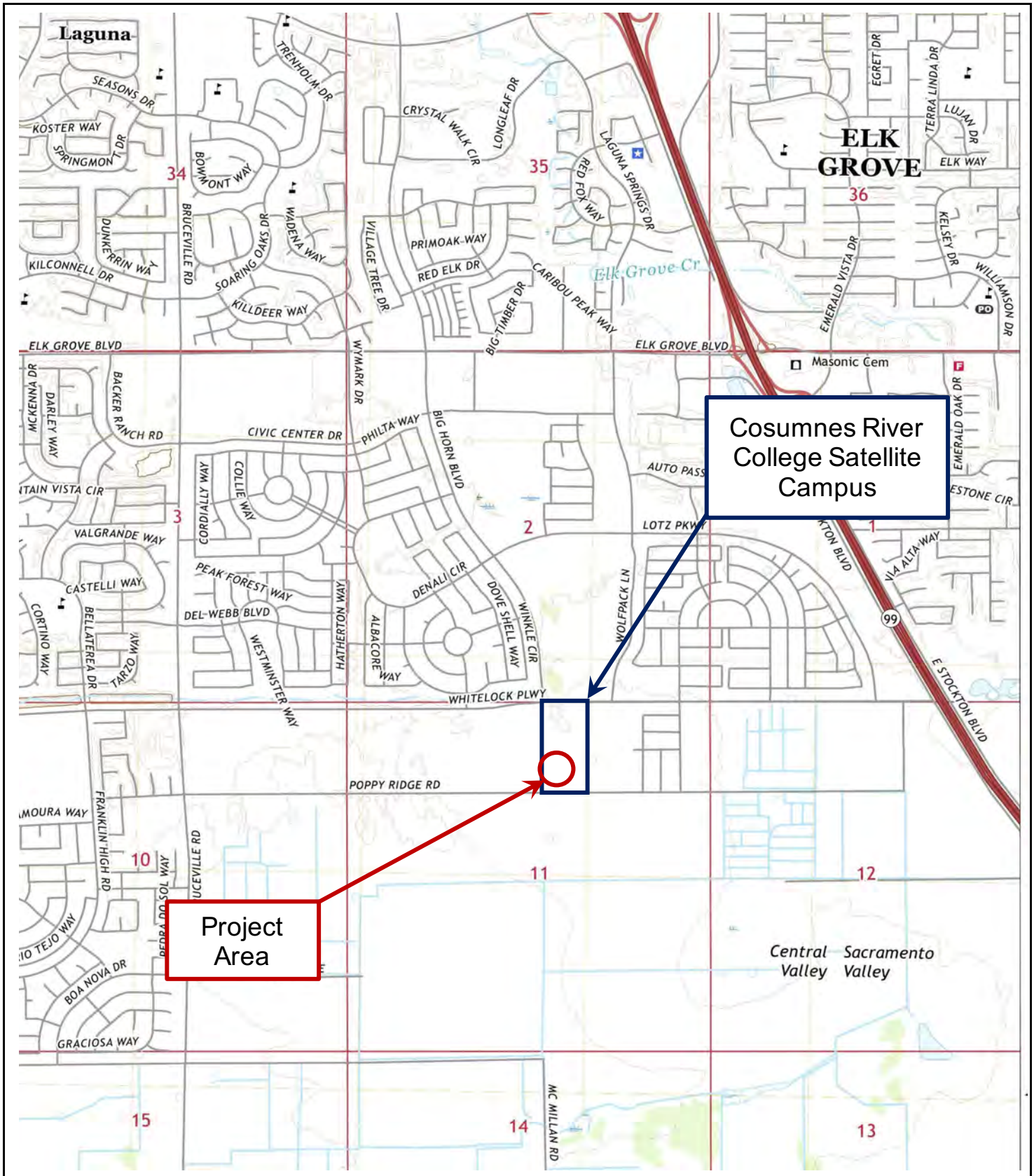
FIGURE 1

PROJECT VICINITY



Source: USGS 7.5-minute Florin topographic quadrangle

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FIGURE 2

PROJECT LOCATION

proposed for the new facility consists primarily of an open grassland field with a small portion of sidewalk and adjacent landscaped area (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B).

GENERAL SETTING: The project site is located in Elk Grove, in south Sacramento County, California (Figure 1). The site is in Section 11 within Township 6 North, Range 5 East of the USGS 7.5-minute Florin topographic quadrangle (Figure 2). Project development will occur in an open grassland area just southwest of the existing building at the Cosumnes River College Satellite Campus (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B).

VEGETATION: A majority of the natural habitats in the project vicinity have been replaced by development. The site is currently an open grassland field vegetated in ruderal grasses and weeds that appears to periodically disked and/or mowed for weed abatement (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B). There are no trees or shrubs in the project site, but there are a few notable trees in close proximity to the site and few smaller landscape trees and shrubs associated with the existing campus facility north and northeast of the project site. No blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*) shrubs were observed in or adjacent to the site.

The open grassland field supports primarily non-native grasses and weeds. Dominant grass species include oats (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perrene*), and wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*). Other grassland species including common mallow (*Malva neglecta*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and radish (*Raphanus sativa*) are intermixed with the grasses.

WILDLIFE: Only a few bird species were observed in or near the project site during the recent survey, all of which are common to urban areas of Sacramento County. Turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), European starling

Source (Basemap): Google Earth

N
W E
S

FIGURE 3

Moore Biological Consultants

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

(*Sturnus vulgaris*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), and white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) were the only birds observed at the site during the recent survey. The only other wildlife observed in the site besides birds was a single black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*).

There are a few large trees within a few hundred feet of the project site that are suitable for nesting raptors and other protected migratory birds. A large raptor stick nest was observed in a deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) that is approximately 80 feet south of the southwest corner of the site (see photograph in Attachment B). No other bird nests were observed in the other large trees near the project site. Other trees in close proximity to the site are smaller landscape trees associated with the existing building and parking lots surrounding the school. Given the presence of large trees in close proximity to the site, it is likely one or more additional pairs of raptors, plus a variety of songbirds, nest in trees in or near the school each year. Further, it is considered likely that numerous songbirds nest within trees, shrubs, and grasslands in and adjacent to the school each year.

WATERS OF THE U.S. AND WETLANDS: Jurisdictional “wetlands” includes vegetated wetland areas, which meet the technical criteria described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Supplement (2008), or water bodies or channels that meet the criteria identified in 33 CFR 328.4, which define “Waters of the U.S.”. Jurisdictional “Waters of the U.S” includes intermittent and perennial "blue line" streams mapped on USGS topographic maps, even when these features have been re-aligned and seasonal wetland swales and vernal pools that are hydrologically connected to or in proximity to tributary drainages.

There are no potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands in the site. The site supports upland (i.e., not “wetland”) grasses and weeds and the on-site soils appear to be well-draining. Specifically, we observed no relatively

permanent or intermittent drainages, vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, marshes, ponds, lakes, or riparian wetlands of any type within or adjacent to the site.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES: Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act or other regulations. The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 declares that all federal departments and agencies shall utilize their authority to conserve endangered and threatened plant and animal species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 parallels the policies of FESA and pertains to native California species.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2019) is helpful to identify special-status species that have been previously documented in the greater project vicinity or have the potential to occur based on presence of suitable habitat and geographical distribution. Several special-status species have been documented within the Florin and Bruceville topographic quadrangles (see CNDDB Search Results in Attachment C). There are several records of nesting Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) within a few miles of the site with the closest record approximately 0.5 miles west of the project site. There are a few records of tricolored blackbirds (*Agelaius tricolor*) nesting within 2 miles of the project site.

Special-status plants generally occur in relatively undisturbed areas in vegetation communities such as vernal pools, marshes and swamps, chenopod scrub, seasonal wetlands, riparian scrub, and areas with unusual soils. The site is an open grassland field that is routinely mowed and does not provide suitable habitat for special-status plants. No special-status plants or highly suitable habitat for special-status plants were observed in or adjacent to the site.

While the project site may have provided habitat for special-status wildlife species at some time in the past, development has substantially modified natural habitats in the greater project vicinity, including those within the Cosumnes River

College Satellite campus. Of the wildlife species identified in the CNDDB search, Swainson's hawk is the only species with potential to occur in the project site on more than a transitory or very occasional basis. Due to a lack of suitable habitat, it is unlikely other special-status species have potential to occur at the school site.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: The Swainson's hawk is a migratory hawk listed by the State of California as a Threatened species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code of California protect Swainson's hawks year-round, as well as their nests during the nesting season (March 1 through September 15). Swainson's hawk are found in the Central Valley primarily during their breeding season, a population is known to winter in the San Joaquin Valley.

Swainson's hawks prefer nesting sites that provide sweeping views of nearby foraging grounds consisting of grasslands, irrigated pasture, hay, and wheat crops. Most Swainson's hawks are migratory, wintering in Mexico and breeding in California and elsewhere in the western United States. This raptor generally arrives in the Central Valley in mid-March, and begins courtship and nest construction immediately upon arrival at the breeding sites. The young fledge in early July, and most Swainson's hawks leave their breeding territories by late August.

There are numerous records of nesting Swainson's hawk in the CNDDB (2019) search area within a few miles of the project site with the closest record approximately 0.5 miles west of the site. Although not recorded in the CNDDB, Moore Biological Consultants documented nesting Swainson's hawks in a single oak in the median of Whitelock Parkway approximately 0.5 miles northeast of the site approximately 5 years ago.

No Swainson's hawks were observed during the recent survey; however, this survey was conducted outside of the nesting season for this species. The open grassland field in the project site provides suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's

hawk, although any use of this area by foraging Swainson's hawks is unknown. Swainson's hawks may use relatively larger trees in and near the school for nesting. As described above, a large raptor stick nest was observed in a cedar tree approximately 80 feet south of the project site. As Swainson's hawks have nested in the area, it is possible this nest was used by nesting Swainson's hawks during 2019. It is also possible that this nest may be used by Swainson's hawks or other raptors in upcoming nesting seasons.

CRITICAL HABITAT: Critical habitat is areas mapped by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as being critical to maintain and/or manage in a relatively natural state for the recovery of a listed species. The site is not in designated critical habitat of any federally listed species.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Cosumnes River College Satellite Campus primarily consists of developed areas and areas of landscaping that are biologically unremarkable. The project site is an open grassland field and includes a few strips of landscaped area, and is also biologically unremarkable.

- There are no potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands in the site.

- Due to a lack of suitable habitat, it is very unlikely that special-status plants occur in the site.

- With the exception of Swainson's hawk, no special-status wildlife species are expected to occur in the body of the site on more than a very occasional or transitory basis. The site is in close proximity to at least one tree that has been used by nesting raptors as recently as 2019 and Swainson's hawks can be disturbed if loud and intensive construction activities occur in close proximity to their nests. Even though the site is on

a busy campus in an urban setting, loud construction activities such as pavement grinding or jackhammering could result in disturbance to Swainson's hawks, if any, nesting in or near the site.

- Pre-construction surveys for nesting Swainson's hawks within 0.25 miles of the project site are recommended if construction commences between March 1 and September 15. If active nests are found, a qualified biologist should determine the need (if any) for temporal restrictions on construction. The determination should be pursuant to criteria set forth by CDFW (CDFG, 1994) and the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SHTAC) survey guidelines (SHTAC, 2000).

- The site is not within designated critical habitat for any federally listed species.

- Trees and shrubs adjacent to the site and grasslands in and adjacent to the site may be used by nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and Fish and Game Code of California. If vegetation removal and/or project construction occurs between February 1 and August 31, a pre-construction nesting bird survey is recommended. If active nests are found within the survey area, vegetation removal and/or project construction should be delayed until a qualified biologist determines nesting is complete.

We hope this information is useful. Please call me at (209) 745-1159 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Moore, M.S.
Principal Biologist

References and Literature Consulted

ACOE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 1987. Technical Report Y87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MI.

ACOE. 2008. Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region. U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS. September.

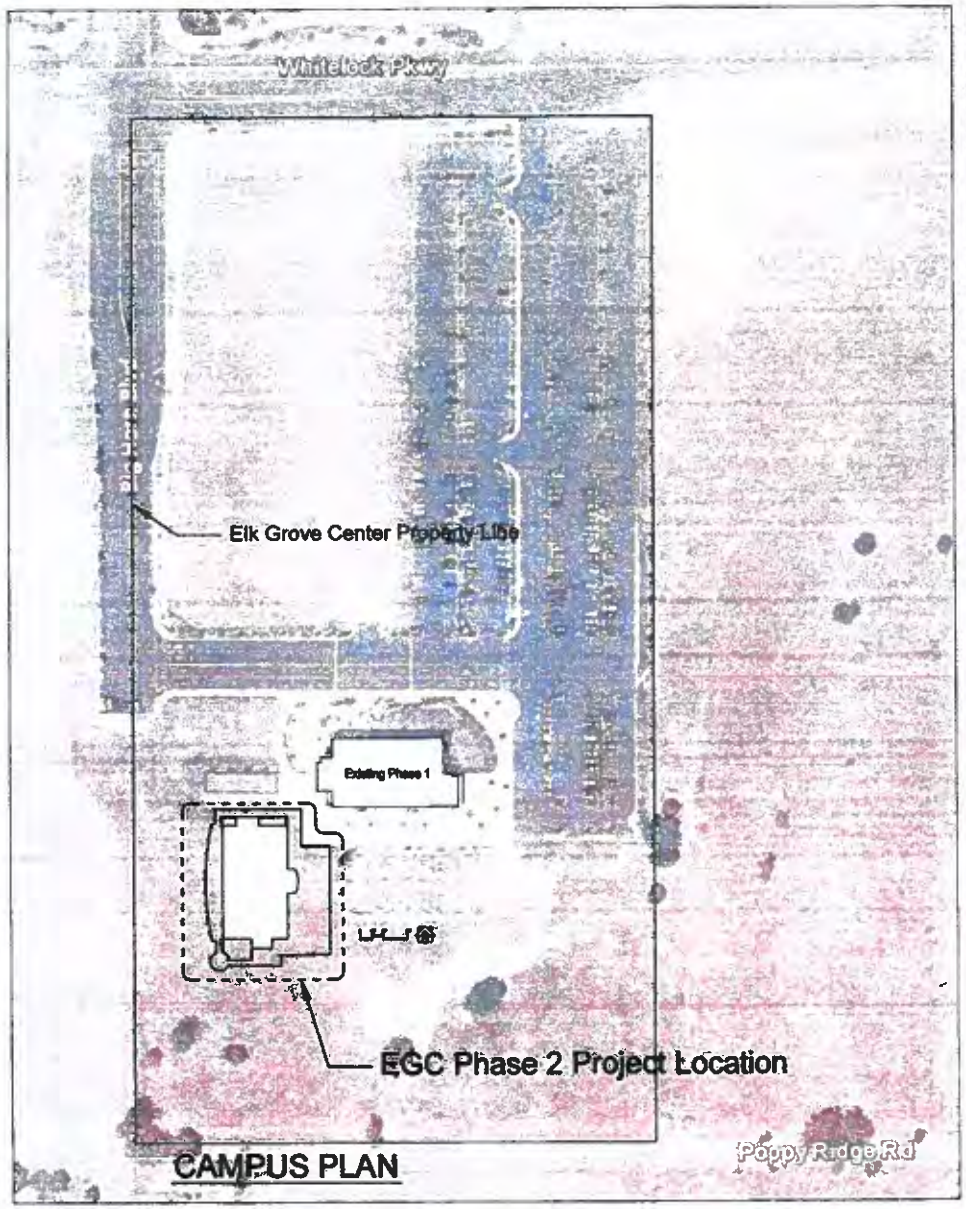
CNDDB (California Natural Diversity Database). 2019. California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Program, Sacramento, California.

CDFG (California Department of Fish and Game). 1994. Staff Report regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks (*Buteo Swainsoni*) in the Central Valley of California. November.

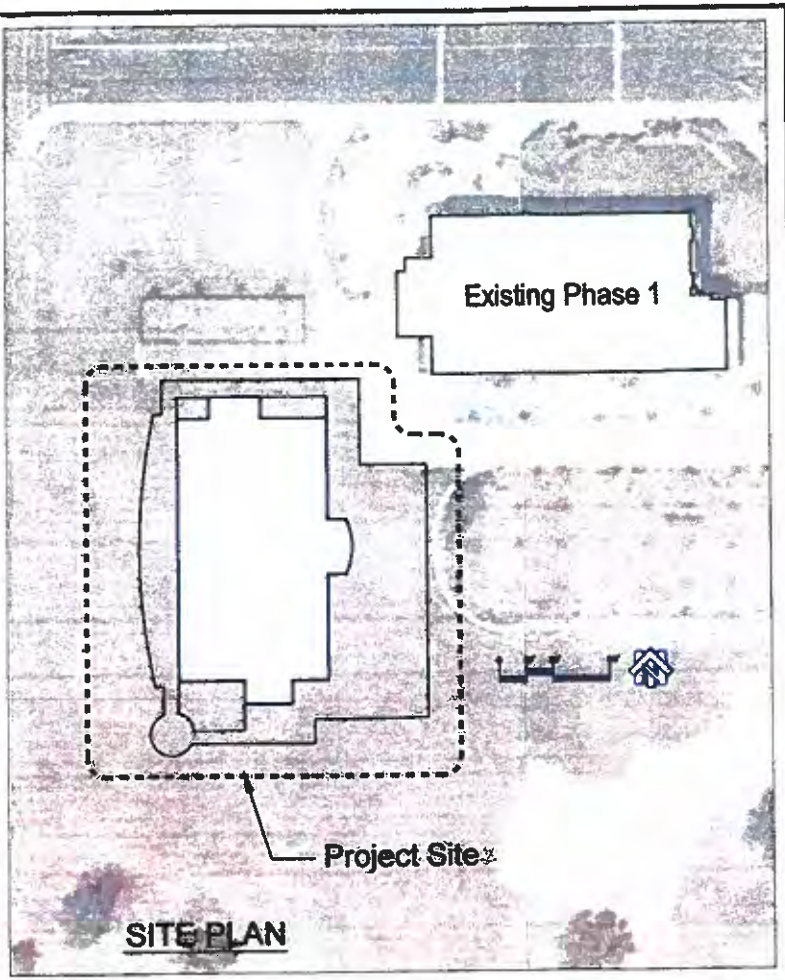
SHTAC (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee). 2000. Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley. May 31.

Attachment A

Project Plans (Sheets A1 – A4)



CAMPUS PLAN



SITE PLAN

Drawing Index

Elk Grove Center

Cosumnes River College

Los Rios Community College District

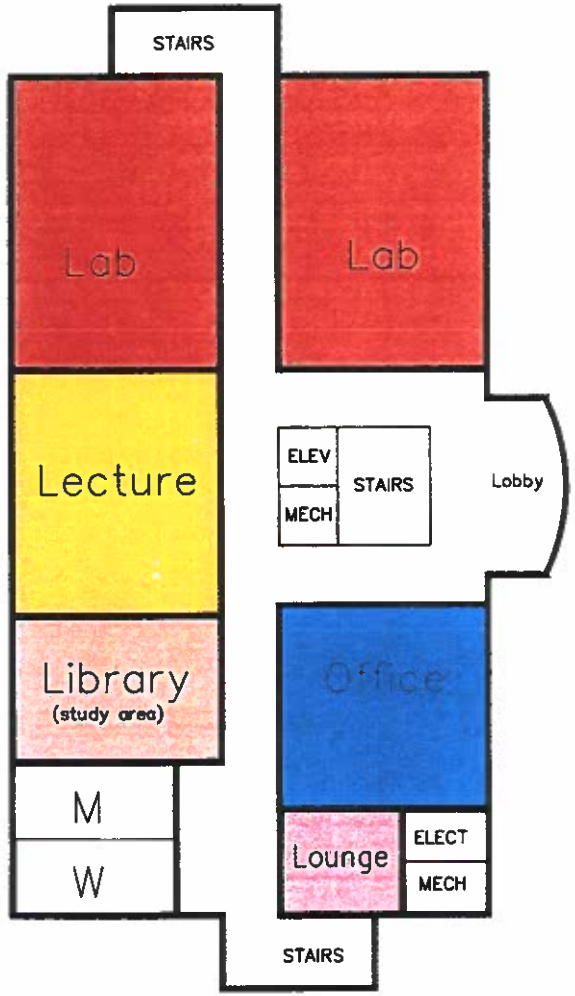
Elk Grove Center Phase 2

Final Project Proposal

FPP
Pre-Schematic
Plans

Campus Plan

April 2016 | A1



FIRST FLOOR

Lab ASF: 3,600 TOP: 4900
Lecture ASF: 1,500 TOP: 0099
Office ASF: 1,200 TOP: 0099
Library ASF: 900 TOP: 6120
Lounge ASF: 400 TOP: 0099

0 15' 30' 60'

Elk Grove Center

Cosumnes River College

Los Rios Community College District

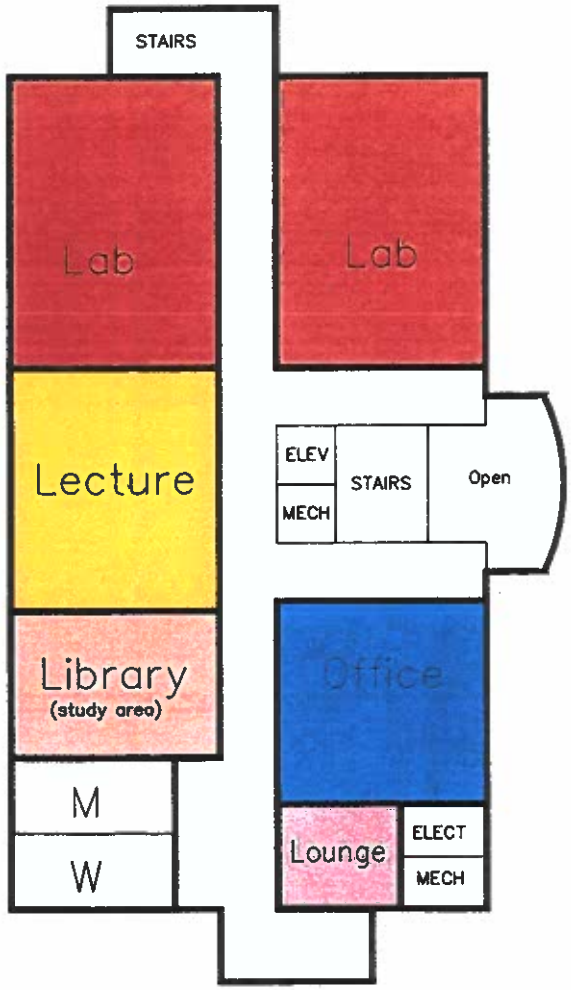
Elk Grove Center Phase 2

Final Project Proposal

FPP
Pre-Schematic Plans

1st Floor Plan

April 2016 | A2



SECOND FLOOR

- Lab ASF: 3,600 TOP: 4900
- Lecture ASF: 1,500 TOP: 0099
- Office ASF: 1,200 TOP: 0099
- Library ASF: 900 TOP: 6120
- Lounge ASF: 400 TOP: 0099

0 15' 30' 60'

Elk Grove Center

Cosumnes River College

Los Rios Community College District

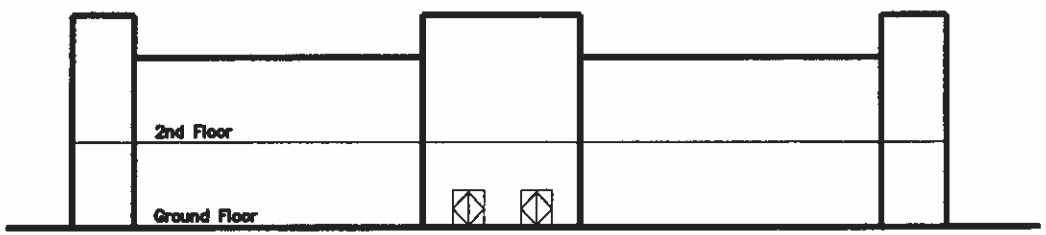
Elk Grove Center Phase 2

Final Project Proposal

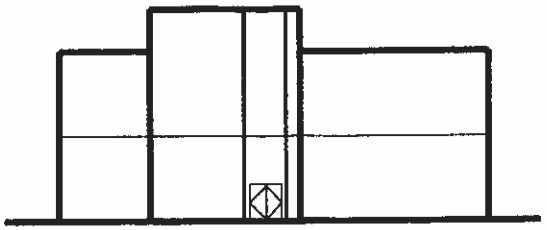
FPP
Pre-Schematic Plans

2nd Floor Plan

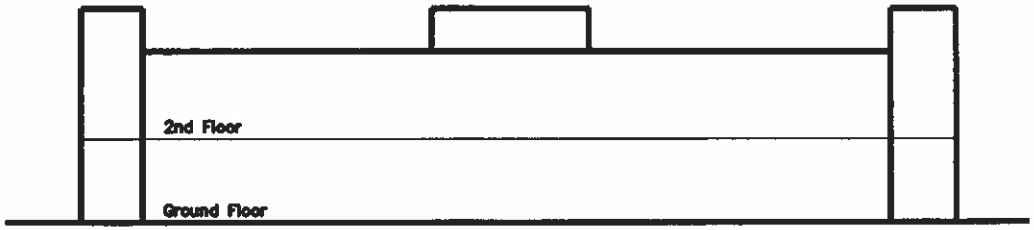
April 2016 | A3



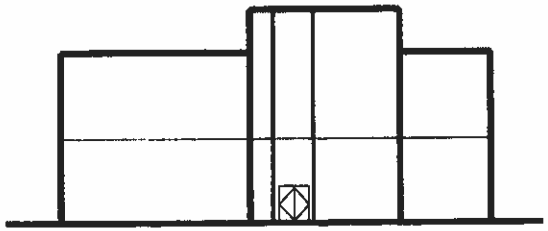
EAST SIDE



NORTH SIDE

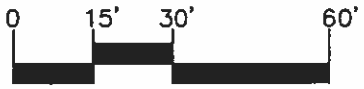


WEST SIDE



SOUTH SIDE

MASSING DIAGRAMS



Elk Grove Center

Cosumnes River College

Los Rios Community College District

Elk Grove Center Phase 2

Final Project Proposal

FPP
Pre-Schematic Plans

Massing Diagram

April 2016 | A4

Attachment B

Photographs

Open grassland in the body of the project site, looking northwest from the southeast corner of the site; 01/02/20.

Grassland field in the body of the site, looking east from the west edge of the site; 01/02/20.

North edge of the site, looking east from the northwest corner of the site; 01/02/20.

East edge of the site, looking south from the northeast corner of the site; 01/02/20. A portion of this fenced-off grassy area appears to be included in the project site.

West edge of the site, looking north from the southwest corner of the site; 01/02/20.

Large stick nest in a deodar cedar tree approximately 80 feet south of the southwest corner of the site, looking northwest; 01/02/20. No other stick nests were observed in any of the large trees viewable from the project site.

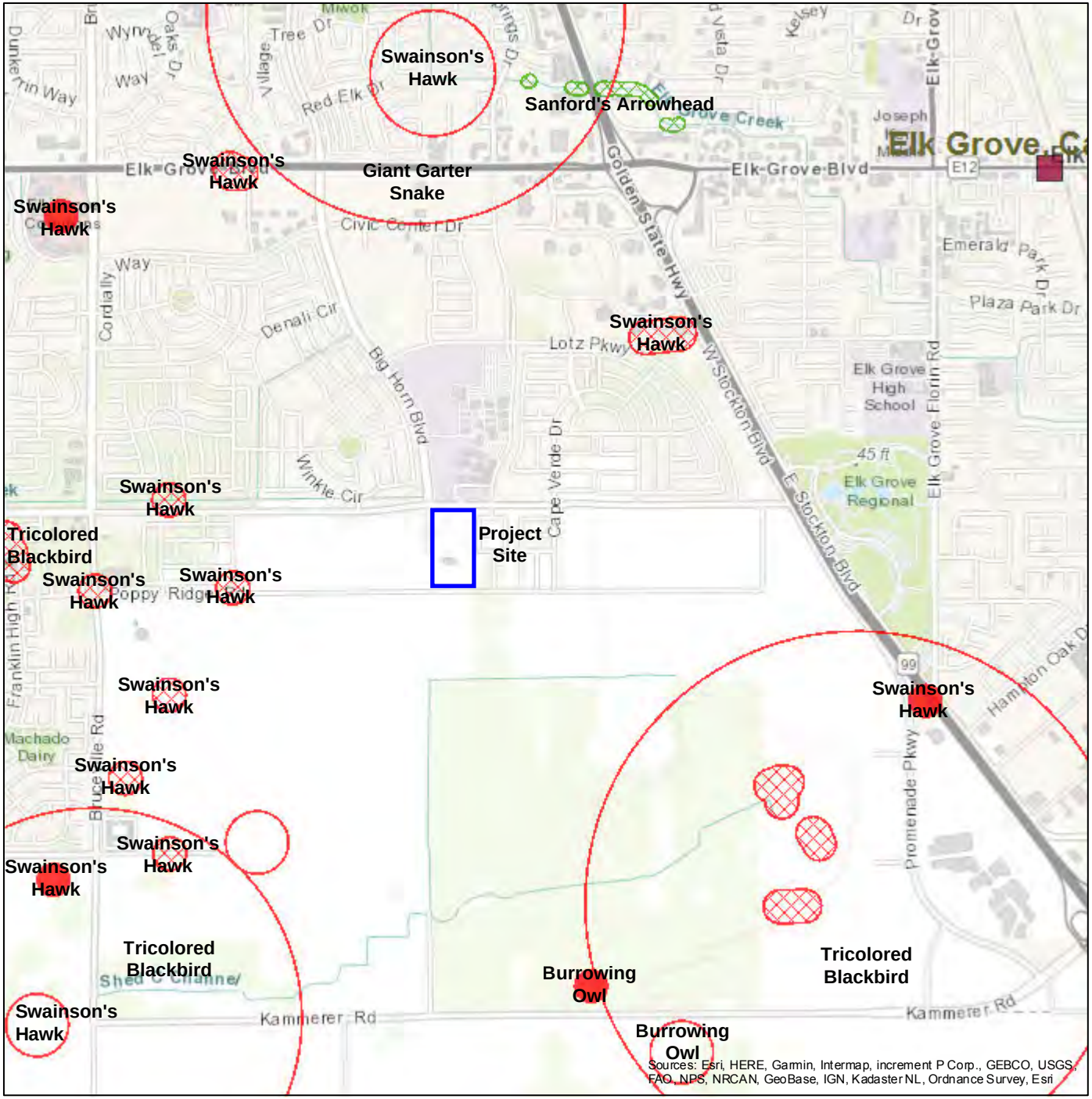
Attachment C

CNDDB Map and Summary Report

Map of Project Area

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Commercial [ds85]

- Plant (80m)
- Plant (specific)
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (80m)
- Animal (specific)
- Animal (non-specific)
- Animal (circular)
- Terrestrial Comm. (80m)
- Terrestrial Comm. (specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (non-specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (circular)
- Aquatic Comm. (80m)
- Aquatic Comm. (specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (non-specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (circular)
- Multiple (80m)
- Multiple (specific)
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)
- Sensitive EO's (Commercial only)



1:36,112

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 mi

0 0.5 1 2 km

N

December 31, 2019

Author: cnddb_com@dfg.ca.gov

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Florin (3812144) OR Bruceville (3812134))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Accipiter cooperii Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G2G3	S1S2	SSC
Ardea alba great egret	ABNGA04040	None	None	G5	S4	
Ardea herodias great blue heron	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	
Athene cunicularia burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
Branchinecta mesovallensis midvalley fairy shrimp	ICBRA03150	None	None	G2	S2S3	
Brasenia schreberi watershield	PDCAB01010	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
Buteo regalis ferruginous hawk	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Carex comosa bristly sedge	PMCYP032Y0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.1
Cicuta maculata var. bolanderi Bolander's water-hemlock	PDAPI0M051	None	None	G5T4T5	S2?	2B.1
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	CTT52410CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
Cuscuta obtusiflora var. glandulosa Peruvian dodder	PDCUS01111	None	None	G5T4?	SH	2B.2
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	
Downingia pusilla dwarf downingia	PDCAM060C0	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2
Elanus leucurus white-tailed kite	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
Emys marmorata western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Falco columbarius merlin	ABNKD06030	None	None	G5	S3S4	WL

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest	CTT61420CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest						
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest	CTT61430CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest						
Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. occidentalis	PDMAL0H0R3	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2
woolly rose-mallow						
Hydrochara rickseckeri	IICOL5V010	None	None	G2?	S2?	
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle						
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	ABNME03041	None	Threatened	G3G4T1	S1	FP
California black rail						
Lathyrus jepsonii var. jepsonii	PDFAB250D2	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
Delta tule pea						
Legenere limosa	PDCAM0C010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
legenere						
Lepidium latipes var. heckardii	PDBRA1M0K1	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.2
Heckard's pepper-grass						
Lepidurus packardi	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G4	S3S4	
vernal pool tadpole shrimp						
Lilaeopsis masonii	PDAPI19030	None	Rare	G2	S2	1B.1
Mason's lilaeopsis						
Limosella australis	PDSCR10030	None	None	G4G5	S2	2B.1
Delta mudwort						
Linderiella occidentalis	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
California linderiella						
Melospiza melodia	ABPBXA3010	None	None	G5	S3?	SSC
song sparrow ("Modesto" population)						
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	CTT44110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool						
Nycticorax nycticorax	ABNGA11010	None	None	G5	S4	
black-crowned night heron						
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
steelhead - Central Valley DPS						
Phalacrocorax auritus	ABNFD01020	None	None	G5	S4	WL
double-crested cormorant						
Pogonichthys macrolepidotus	AFCJB34020	None	None	GNR	S3	SSC
Sacramento splittail						
Sagittaria sanfordii	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Sanford's arrowhead						
Scutellaria galericulata	PDLAM1U0J0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
marsh skullcap						
Scutellaria lateriflora	PDLAM1U0Q0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
side-flowering skullcap						

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Spirinchus thaleichthys longfin smelt	AFCHB03010	Candidate	Threatened	G5	S1	
Taxidea taxus American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Thamnophis gigas giant gartersnake	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	
Trifolium hydrophilum saline clover	PDFAB400R5	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Valley Oak Woodland Valley Oak Woodland	CTT71130CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus yellow-headed blackbird	ABPBXB3010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 47