

APPENDIX B

MOORE BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

January 6, 2020

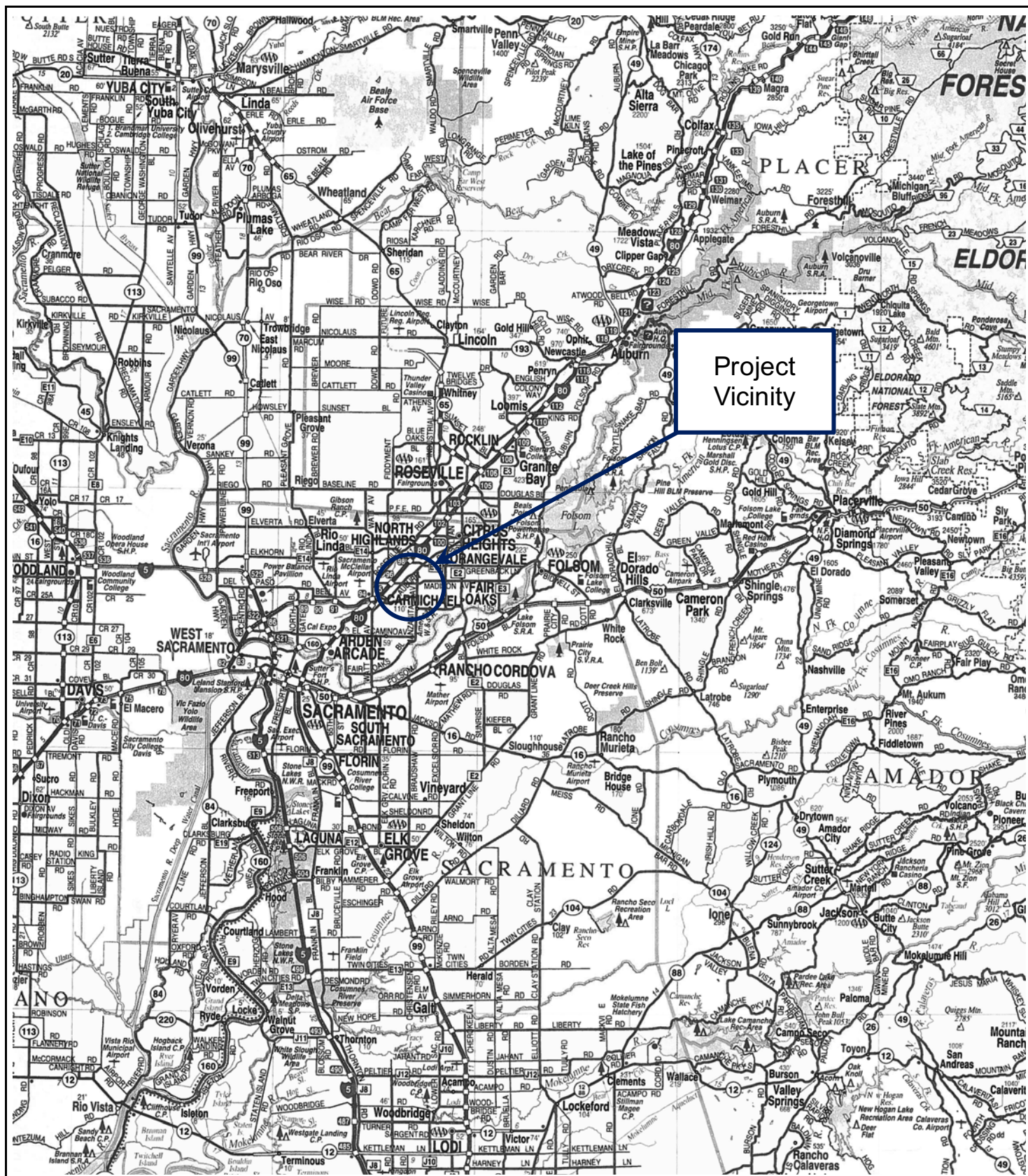
Mr. Daniel Kramer, C.E.G.
Petralogix Engineering, Inc.
212 Pine Street, Ste. 2
Lodi, CA 95240

Subject: "TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUILDING MODERNIZATION PROJECT"
AT AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA:
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

Dear Daniel:

Thank you for asking Moore Biological Consultants to assist with a biological resources assessment of the "Technical Education Building Modernization Project" at American River College, in Sacramento, 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 3, 2020.

PROJECT OVERVIEW: The Los Rios Community School District is proposing to modernize the Technical Education Building located in the northeast portion of the American River College campus located at 4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento, California (Figures 1 and 2 and Site Plan in Attachment A). The area proposed for the new Technical Education Building currently consists of



Source: California State
Automobile Association

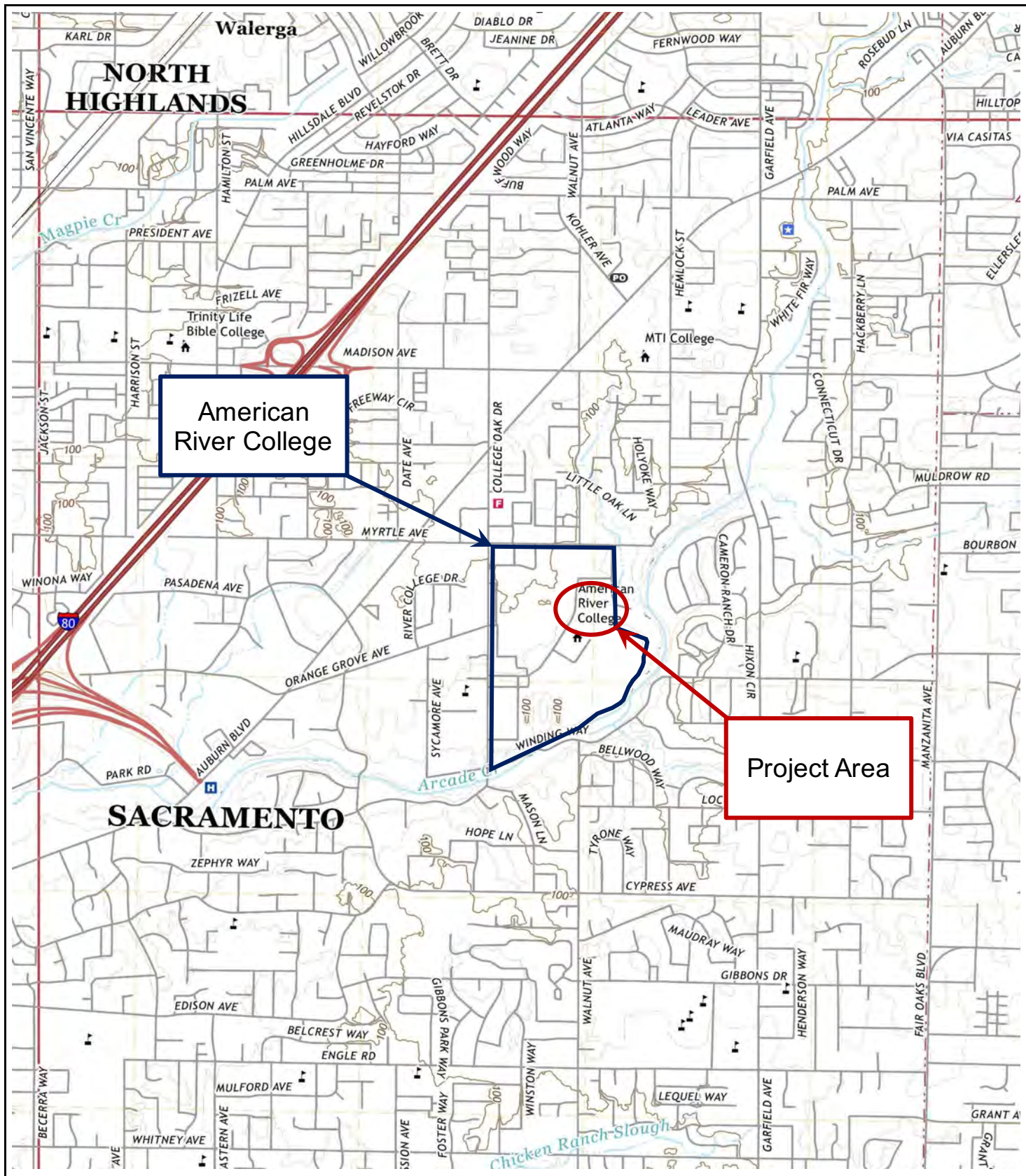
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0 9 18 Miles

FIGURE 1

PROJECT VICINITY



Source: USGS 7.5-minute Citrus Heights topographic quadrangle

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0 2000 4000 Feet

FIGURE 2

PROJECT LOCATION

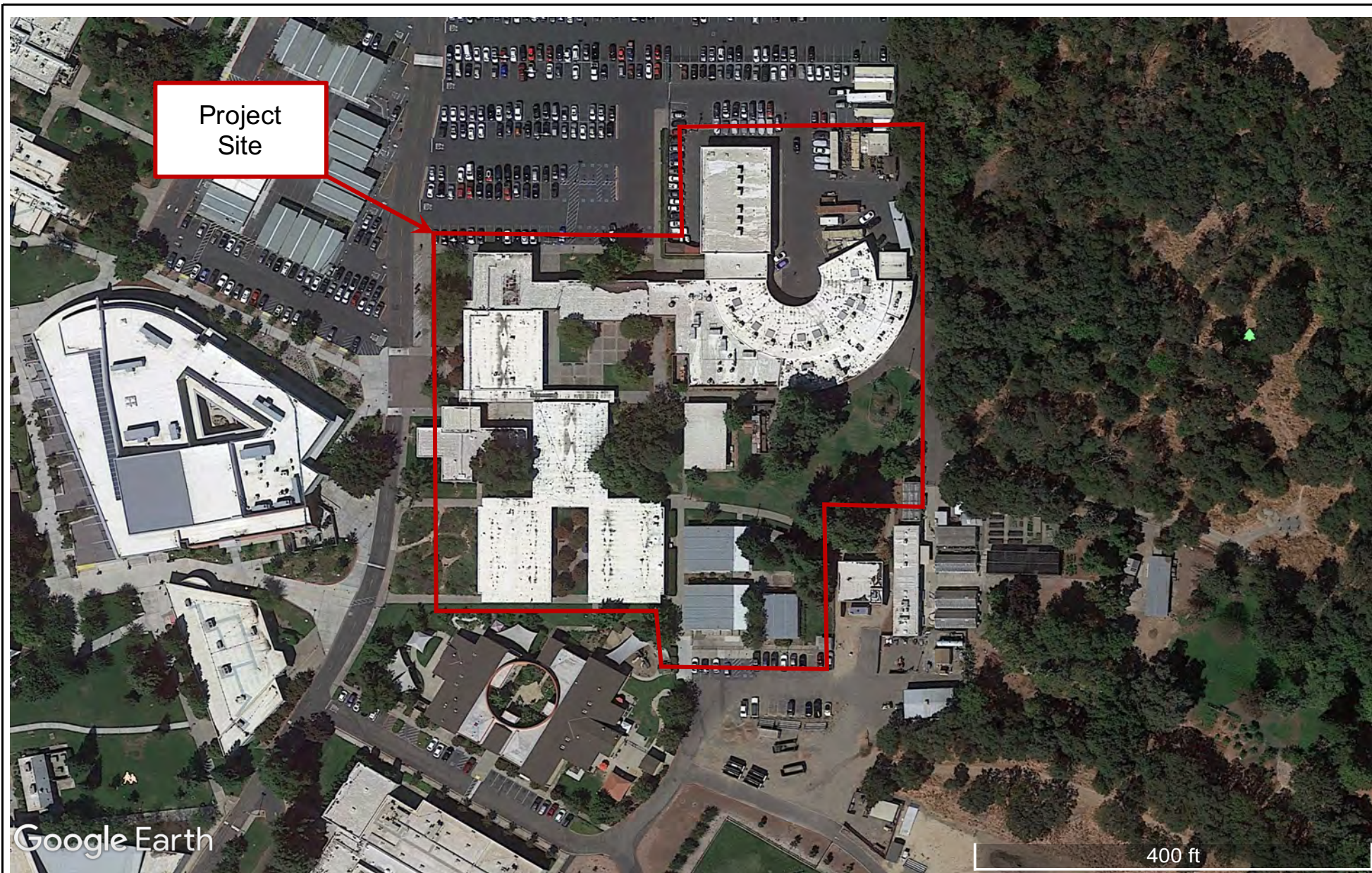
sidewalks and walking paths, several large buildings, asphalt parking areas, and strips of landscaping with several trees and shrubs (see Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B).

The purpose of this project is to provide a facility that can be used for instruction in modern industrial arts and technologies; specifically for Automotive, Electronics, and Welding Technology. The proposed Technical Education Building Modernization Project will improve the technology of the current building, which is primarily used for Automotive, Welding Technology, and Electronics. Improvements will be made to power, lighting, data, and HVAC systems. This modernization includes the replacement of three old temporary portable buildings located behind the Technology Building, with a new permanent space.

GENERAL SETTING: The project site is located in Sacramento County (Figure 1). The site is in Section 46 within Township 9 North, Range 6 East of the USGS 7.5-minute Citrus Heights topographic quadrangle (Figure 2). Project development will occur in the northeast portion of the American River College campus (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B).

VEGETATION: Natural habitats in the project vicinity, including those in the site, have been primarily replaced by development. The site includes landscaped areas, walking paths and sidewalks, and classrooms and other structures (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment B). There are manicured lawn areas throughout the project site and sparse amounts of ruderal grassland vegetation within the landscaped strips and plots in the project site. Dominant species include annual blue grass (*Poa annua*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), long-beaked hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*), long-beak stork's-bill (*Erodium botrys*) and rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*). Additionally, there are several ornamental varieties of shrubs in the project site.

There are numerous ornamental trees and shrubs within and adjacent to the project site, most of which are relatively small and used for landscaping



Source (Basemap): Google Earth

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FIGURE 3

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

purposes. There are also several larger trees in the project site. Dominant tree species scattered include American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), ornamental pines (*Pinus sp.*), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), oaks (*Quercus sp.*), American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and deodar cedar (*Cedrus deodara*). Additionally, there are several large trees adjacent to the site associated with other buildings in the campus and most notably along the corridor of Arcade Creek, which is located just east of the work area. Trees in close proximity of the site are similar to those found in the work area, consisting primarily of ornamental species and oaks.

WILDLIFE: A few bird species common to urban areas in Sacramento County were observed in the site during the recent survey. Representative species include American crow (*Corvus branchyrhynchos*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), and yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*).

The only other wildlife observed in the project site was one western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*).

As described above, there are several large trees in and near the project site that are suitable for nesting raptors and other protected migratory birds. No stick nests were observed in any of the trees in the site or viewable from the site with binoculars. Given the presence of large trees in and near 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 consists entirely of developed and landscaped areas that are highly disturbed. Specifically, we observed no relatively permanent or intermittent drainages, vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, marshes, ponds, lakes, or riparian wetlands of any type within the site.

It should be noted that Arcade Creek, a jurisdictional Water of the U.S., is located a few hundred feet to the east of the project site. The project will not involve any work in or adjacent to the Arcade Creek corridor; all work will occur on the campus.

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, 2020) 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.

Numerous special-status species have been documented within the Citrus Heights, Rio Linda, Sacramento East and Carmichael topographic quadrangles (see CNDDDB Search Results in Attachment C). However, no special-status species are documented within the CNDDDB within a few miles of the site. The nearest special-status species occurrence to the site is vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), approximately 3 miles southwest 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 has been disturbed by development 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 American River College campus. Of the wildlife species identified in the CNDDDB 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 is only one record of nesting Swainson's hawk in the CNDDB (2020) search area within 5 miles of the project site. This record is approximately 3 miles southeast of the site (Attachment C).

No Swainson's hawks were observed during the recent survey; however, this survey was conducted outside of the nesting season for this species. The landscaped areas and developed areas in the school do not provide suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat, but large trees in and near the school, including some of the trees within the projects site, could be used for nesting by this species.

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 American River College campus primarily consists of developed areas and areas of landscaping that are biologically unremarkable. The project site is heavily developed with landscaped areas 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. 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, shrubs, and grasslands in and near 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.

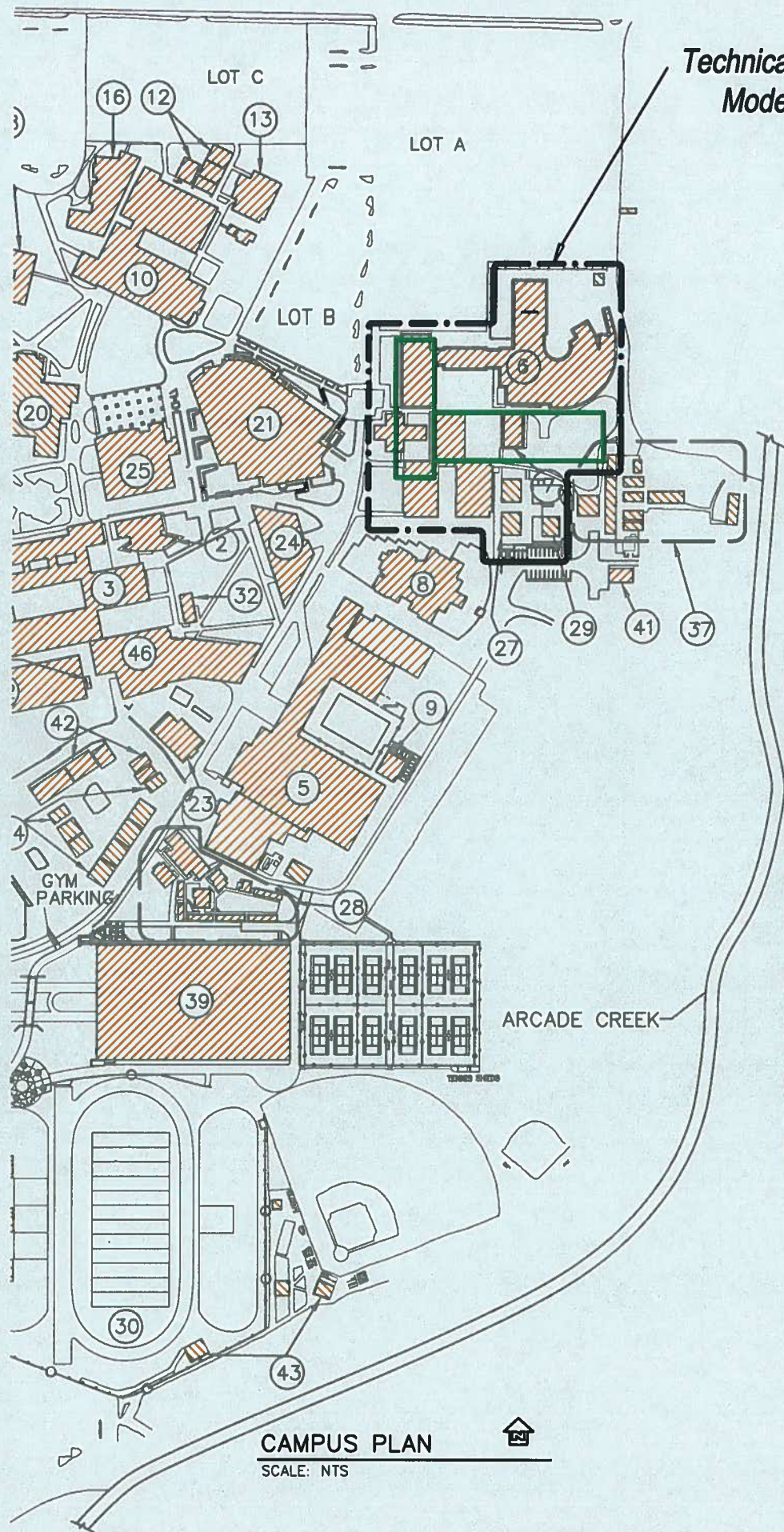
CNDDDB (California Natural Diversity Database). 2020. California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Program, Sacramento, California.

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)



BUILDINGS

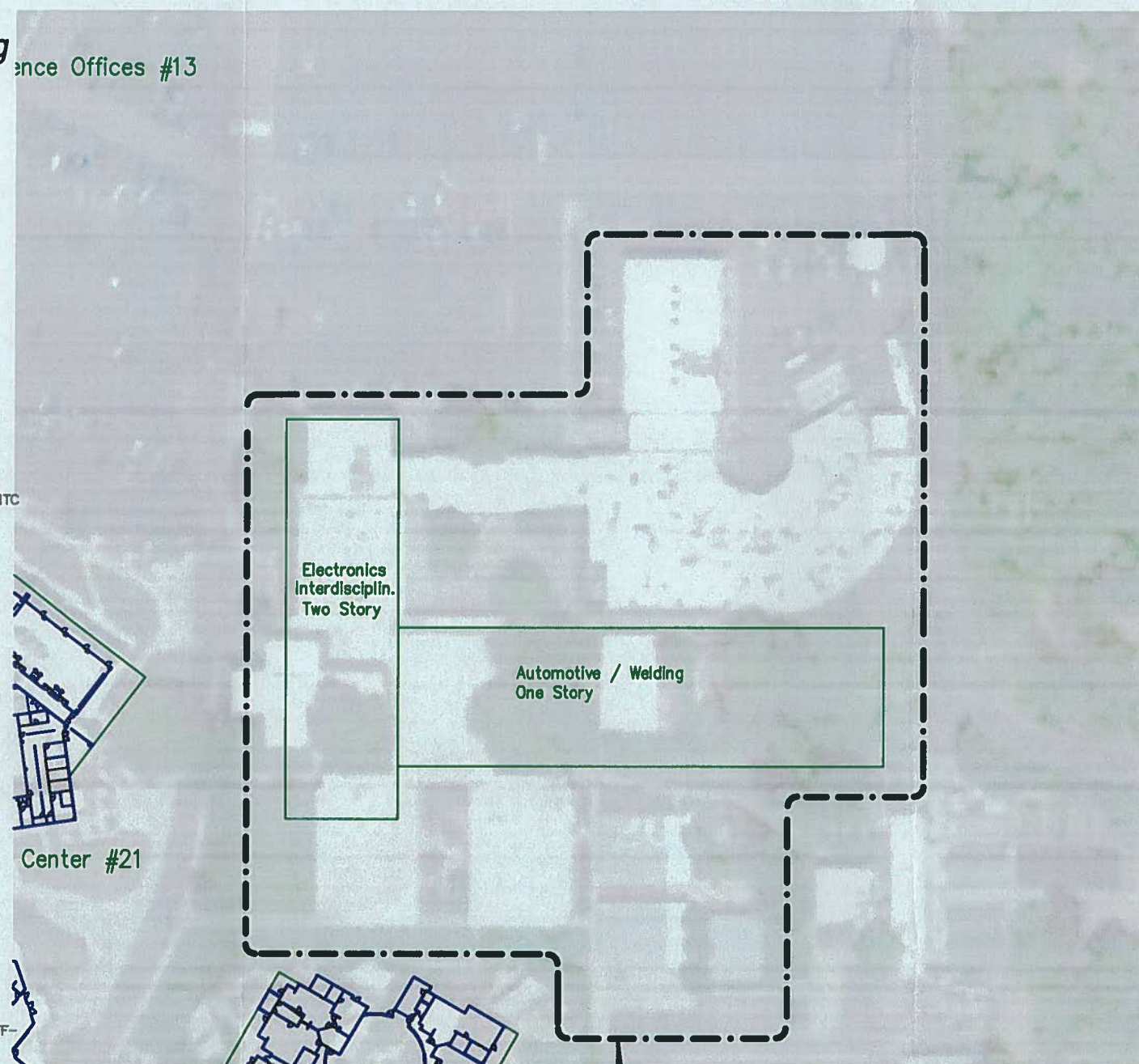
1. ADMINISTRATION
2. INSTRUCTIONAL TECH. CTR. (ITC)
3. LIBERAL ARTS
4. RAEF HALL
5. PHYSICAL EDUCATION
6. TECH. VOCATION
7. TECH. VOC. PORTABLE
8. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
9. ADAPTIVE P.E.
10. SCIENCE
12. SCIENCE PORTABLE
13. SCIENCE OFFICES
15. FINE ARTS
16. LIFE SCIENCE
18. FINE ARTS OFFICES
19. HOWARD HALL
20. STUDENT SERVICES/DSP&S
21. STUDENT CENTER
22. DAVIES HALL
23. BOILER BLDG
24. BOOKSTORE
25. LIBRARY
26. CHILDRENS CENTER
27. CHILD CARE PORTABLES
28. HEALTH AND EDUCATION
29. FUNERAL SERVICE PORTABLE
30. STADIUM
31. RANCH HOUSE
32. CENTREX
33. WAREHOUSE 3
34. WAREHOUSE 1
35. WAREHOUSE 2
36. SHOP 1
37. ENVIRONMENTAL RES.
38. CAMPUS POLICE BLDG.
39. PARKING STRUCTURE
40. CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER(OFF-CAMPUS)
41. GROUNDS SHOP
42. LRC PORTABLES
43. SOFTBALL TEAMROOM
44. FINE ARTS PORTABLES
46. LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER
48. CONCESSION STAND
60. REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY CTR. (OFF-CAMPUS)

SITE PLAN

SCALE: NTS

DRAWING INDEX

- A1 CAMPUS PLAN, SITE PLAN, DRAWING INDEX
- A2 1st FLOOR FPP PROPOSED PLAN
- A3 2nd FLOOR FPP PROPOSED PLAN
- A4 MASSING DIAGRAMS



Area of Modernization

American River
College

Los Rios
Community
College District

Technical
Education
Building

Final Project
Proposal

FPP
Pre-Schematic
Plans

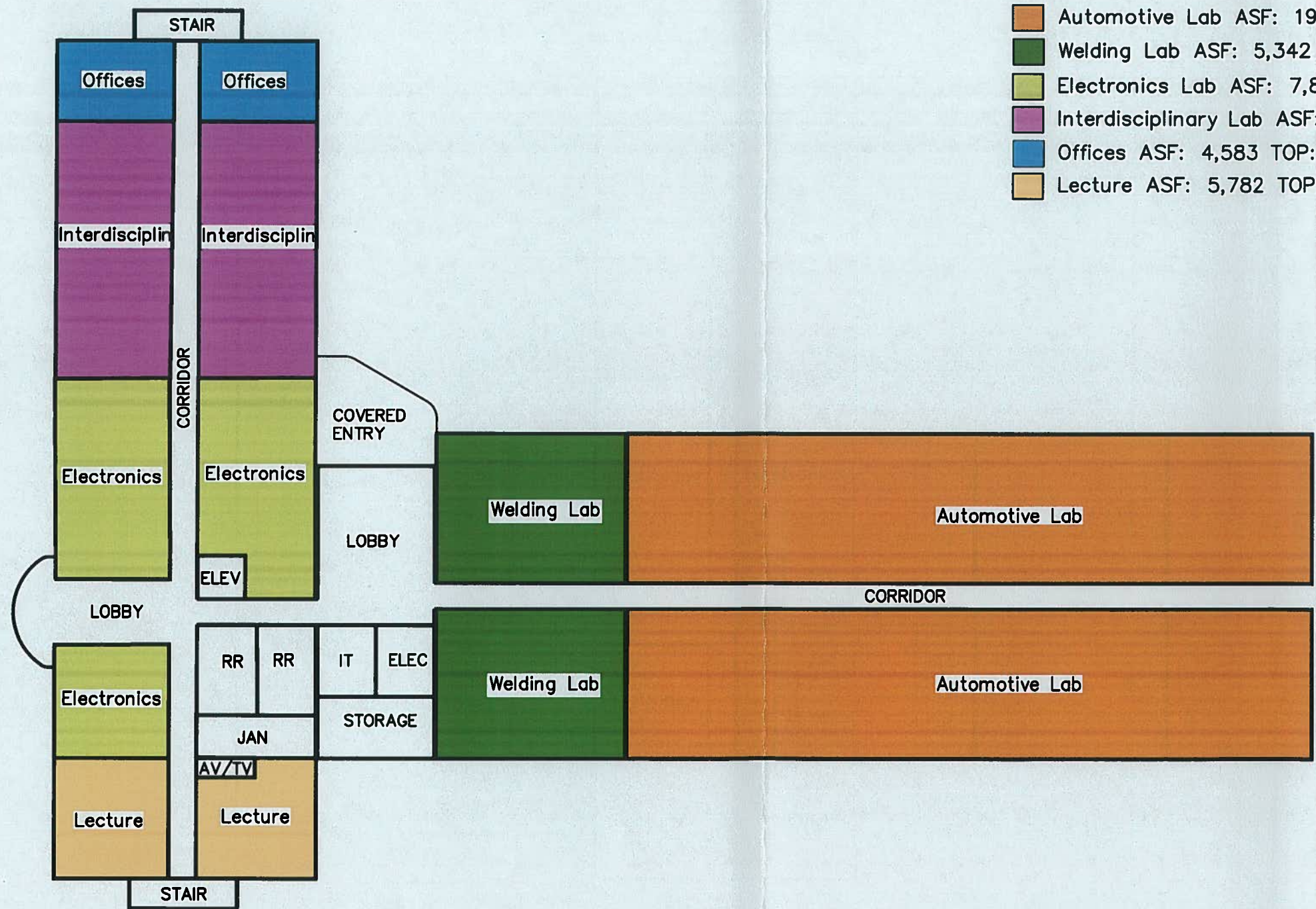
Campus Plan

April 2016

A1

FIRST & SECOND FLOOR SPACE TYPES

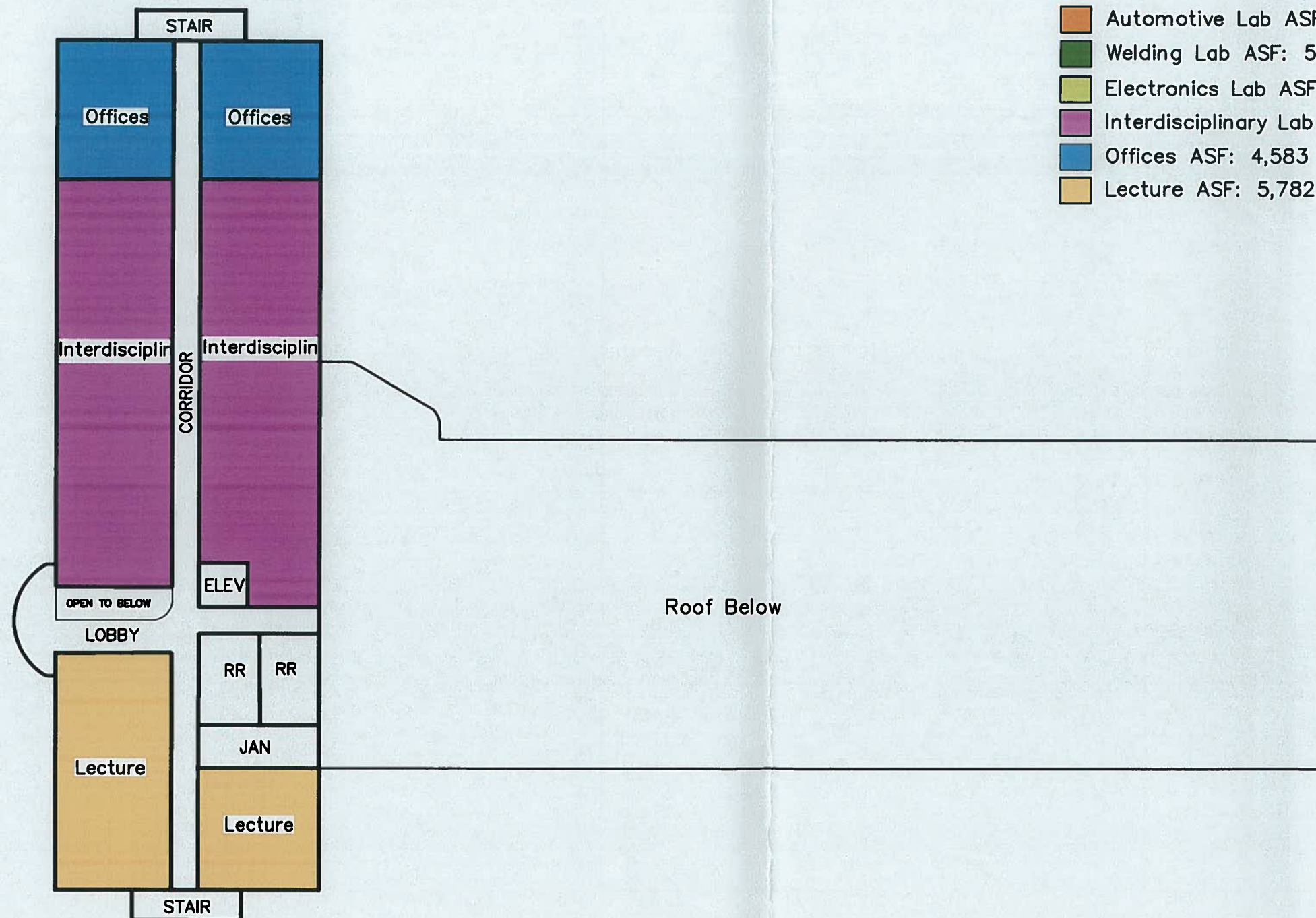
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- Welding Lab ASF: 5,342 TOP: 0956
- Electronics Lab ASF: 7,803 TOP: 0934
- Interdisciplinary Lab ASF: 17,541 TOP: 4900
- Offices ASF: 4,583 TOP: 0099
- Lecture ASF: 5,782 TOP: 0099



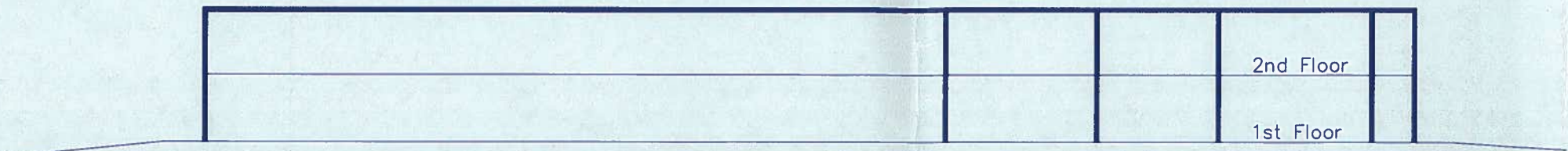
FIRST FLOOR
SCALE: 1"=40'

FIRST & SECOND FLOOR SPACE TYPES

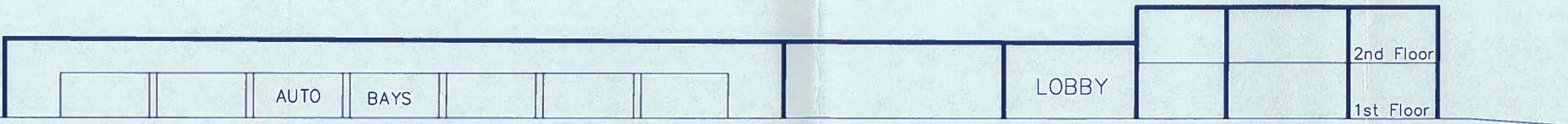
- Automotive Lab ASF: 19,395 TOP: 0948
- Welding Lab ASF: 5,342 TOP: 0956
- Electronics Lab ASF: 7,803 TOP: 0934
- Interdisciplinary Lab ASF: 17,541 TOP: 4900
- Offices ASF: 4,583 TOP: 0099
- Lecture ASF: 5,782 TOP: 0099



SECOND FLOOR
SCALE: 1"=40'



WEST SIDE



NORTH SIDE

MASSING DIAGRAMS

Attachment B

Photographs



West edge of the project site, looking south from northwest corner of the site; 01/03/20.



South edge of the project site, looking east from the southeast corner of the site;
01/03/20.



Landscaped area in the south part of the project site, looking north from the south edge of the site; 01/03/20.



Notable cluster of redwoods in the southeast corner of the site, looking north from the southeast corner of the site; 01/03/20.



Open grassy area in the east part of the project site, looking northeast from the southeast part of the site; 01/03/20.



East edge of the site, looking north from the southeast part of the site; 01/03/20. There is a more natural riparian area to the east of the project site.



Parking lot area to the north of the project site, looking west from the northeast corner of the site; 01/03/20.

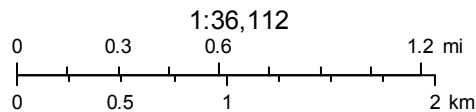
Attachment C

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)



October 23, 2019



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri



Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad IS (Citrus Heights (3812163) OR Rio Linda (3812164) OR Sacramento East (3812154) OR Carmichael (3812153))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	ABNKC12040	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G2G3	S1S2	SSC
<i>Andrena subapasta</i> An andrenid bee	IIHYM35210	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
<i>Ardea alba</i> great egret	ABNGA04040	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Ardea herodias</i> great blue heron	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
<i>Branchinecta mesoovallensis</i> midvalley fairy shrimp	ICBRA03150	None	None	G2	S2S3	
<i>Buteo regalis</i> ferruginous hawk	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	
<i>Downingia pusilla</i> dwarf downingia	PDCAM060C0	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2
<i>Dumontia oregonensis</i> hairy water flea	ICBRA23010	None	None	G1G3	S1	
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
<i>Elderberry Savanna</i> Elderberry Savanna	CTT63440CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> stinkbells	PMLIL0V010	None	None	G3	S3	4.2



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
<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	PDSCR0R060	None	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Hydrochara rickseckeri</i> Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle	IICOL5V010	None	None	G2?	S2?	
<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's dwarf rush	PMJUN011L1	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2
<i>Legenere limosa</i> legenere	PDCAM0C010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<i>Lepidurus packardii</i> vernal pool tadpole shrimp	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G4	S3S4	
<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i> California linderiella	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
<i>Melospiza melodia</i> song sparrow ("Modesto" population)	ABPBXA3010	None	None	G5	S3?	SSC
<i>Northern Claypan Vernal Pool</i> Northern Claypan Vernal Pool	CTT44120CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<i>Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool</i> Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool	CTT44110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
<i>Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool</i> Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool	CTT44132CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 11 steelhead - Central Valley DPS	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
<i>Orcuttia viscida</i> Sacramento Orcutt grass	PMPOA4G070	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Progne subis</i> purple martin	ABPAU01010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Riparia riparia</i> bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S2	
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	AAABF02020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i> giant gartersnake	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	

Record Count: 37