

**246 BENNETT WAY, TEMPLETON,  
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
AND WETLANDS ASSESSMENT**



*Prepared for:*

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and  
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*July 30, 2019*

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*As a County-approved biologist, I hereby certify that this Biological Resources Assessment was prepared according to the Guidelines established by the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I further certify that I was present throughout the site visits associated with this report.*



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Kevin Merk  
Principal Biologist

7/30/19  
Date

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	ii
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Project Description .....	1
1.2. Regulatory Overview .....	4
2.0 METHODS .....	8
2.1 Biological Resources Assessment .....	8
2.2 Wetland Assessment .....	9
3.0 RESULTS .....	11
3.1 Existing Conditions .....	11
3.2 Soils .....	12
3.3 Habitat Types .....	12
3.4 Special-status Biological Resources .....	15
3.5 Wetland Assessment .....	19
4.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION .....	24
4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects .....	24
4.2 Cumulative Effects .....	33
5.0 CONCLUSIONS .....	34
6.0 REFERENCES .....	34

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location Map .....	2
Figure 2 – Aerial Overview Map .....	3
Figure 3 – Soils Map .....	13
Figure 4 – Habitat Map .....	14
Figure 5 – CNDDDB Map .....	16
Figure 6 – Wetland Delineation Map .....	21

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 – USACE Jurisdictional Areas .....	23
Table 2 – CDFW/RWQCB Jurisdictional Area .....	23
Table 3 – Native Erosion Control Seed Mix .....	31

### APPENDICES

Appendix A – List of Plants and Animals Observed Onsite During the Site Visit	
Appendix B – Photo Plate	
Appendix C – Special-status Biological Resources Summary	
Appendix D – Wetland Determination Data Forms	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kevin Merk Associates, LLC (KMA) conducted this biological resources and wetland assessment for the Peoples' Self-Help Housing's proposed development at 246 Bennett Way in Templeton, California. The approximately three-acre property is in the unincorporated community of Templeton, in San Luis Obispo County, California (Assessor's Parcel Number 040-289-020). The proposed project involves the construction of multi-family residential housing on approximately 1.9-acres of frequently disturbed Non-native Grassland. While final site plans are not yet available, the project proposes to provide access to Bennett Way via construction of a bridge or a soft bottom culvert (hydro-arch) that would span an ephemeral drainage, with the abutments or footings being placed outside of the jurisdictional extent of the channel. It is also possible that access could be provided off Las Tablas Road. Stormwater retention basins would be a component of the development to handle stormwater runoff infiltration in compliance with the San Luis Obispo County's Low Impact Development (LID) requirements. A Riparian zone along an intermittent drainage would be avoided and buffered from site development.

The purpose of this assessment was to assist Peoples' Self-Help Housing with the County of San Luis Obispo's (County) compliance review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because the development would require a drainage crossing, a wetland assessment was conducted to determine the extent of the area that meets the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) criteria as waters of the United States; the extent of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction; and, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction.

Six plant communities or habitat types were determined to occur within the property: 1) Non-native Grassland; 2) Wetland; 3) Ruderal/Disturbed; 4) Riparian; 5) Coyote Brush; and 6) Ornamental. The Wetland and Riparian habitats onsite are sensitive natural communities, and project has been designed to avoid these areas. Project impact areas would be entirely within the Non-native Grassland habitat, which has been regularly mowed. This type of disturbance would preclude most special-status plant species from occurring. The entire grassland area was surveyed during the site visit and no special-status plant species were seen, but the site had been recently mowed. There is a slight chance that annual species which can withstand some level of disturbance could occur on the site but were not seen during the survey because they could grow, flower and set seed early in the spring before mowing is done. Two special-status plant species were determined to have low potential to occur on the site: San Luis Obispo owl's-clover (*Castilleja densiflora* var. *obispoensis*; CRPR 1B.2) and Shining navarretia (*Navarretia nigelliformis* ssp. *radians*; CRPR 1B.2). A preconstruction survey for rare plant species should be completed prior to mowing to ensure that project impacts on special-status plant species could be avoided, or mitigated through salvage and relocation efforts.

If access is provided off Las Tablas Road, impacts such as direct removal or excessive trimming could potentially occur to native oak trees (*Quercus* spp.). Mitigation in the form of replacement plantings would be required to meet current County standards.

The disturbed grassland area does not appear to provide wildlife breeding habitat, or be suitable for supporting any other critical function for wildlife species. Several special-status wildlife species could use the Riparian or Wetland habitats onsite, and due to proximity, could potentially occur within the Non-native Grassland habitat periodically on a transitory basis. Additionally, mobile species that can forage in or over small patches of habitat that are surrounded by suburban development may also occur sporadically. No significant effects of the project are expected on wildlife species that could only occur periodically. The northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*; CDFW Species of Special Concern) could occur along the margin of Non-native Grassland near the boundary with the Riparian habitat. Because project impact areas will be setback from the



edge of riparian, and the lizard is not expected to occur very far out into the dry and sparsely vegetation grassland habitat, no direct effects of construction are expected to occur on this species. No designated critical habitat occurs on the site or would be indirectly affected in offsite areas.

Nesting birds and raptors that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or California Fish and Game Code could nest in the Riparian habitat or Ornamental trees surrounding the project impact area. If construction activities took place during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), nesting behavior could be disrupted and construction disturbance could cause adults to abandon nests containing eggs or young. To reduce potential project impacts to a level below significance, the initiation of construction should be scheduled outside of the nesting season, if possible, or preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted and appropriate buffers instituted around active nests until the young have fledged.

The project site occurs in the watershed of "Toad Creek". The onsite Drainage B is shown as an ephemeral drainage on the USGS Templeton 7.5-minute quadrangle, and Drainage A is only shown as a topographic depression. Drainage A originates to the north of Las Tablas Road and flows southeast to the property in a series of culverts and section of natural channel with a defined bed and bank. Drainage A becomes a seasonally moist swale in the mowed area of the property, and converges with Drainage B at two approximately 36-inch culverts that convey flows under Bennett Way. Drainage B runs through the southern portion of the property and is a remnant patch of natural habitat. It is composed of a riparian corridor with tall mature trees, wetland habitat along the drainage channel, and flowing water during average precipitation conditions. The Riparian habitat along Drainage B is shown as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), and Drainage A is not mapped as wetland habitat in the NWI. There is only one soil type on the property, Lockwood-Concepcion complex (2 to 9 percent slopes), which is not on the hydric soils list.

The wetland assessment determined that both Drainage A and Drainage B were expected to fall under the USACE jurisdiction as Waters of the U.S. and also under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB as waters of the state of California. The extent of the Riparian habitat would be under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB. The project is expected to avoid jurisdictional areas and the entrance driveway will span Drainage A above the area potentially under jurisdiction by the three agencies. It is expected that a 404 permit will not be required from USACE, but permitting from CDFW is needed due to spanning the channel and the RWQCB should also be consulted.

Site grading that would produce unstable bare soils potentially could erode into the sensitive Riparian and Wetland habitats associated with drainages onsite or downstream of the site if substantial precipitation caused runoff before these areas are stabilized. Appropriate sedimentation and erosion control measures, as well as any Best Management Practices required by the permitting agencies, shall be employed to bring potential project effects to a level below significance.

In summary, the proposed project has very little chance for impacts on biological resources because it is planned for a disturbed site that is surrounded by suburban development. The project has been designed to avoid the Wetland and Riparian sensitive habitats on the site, and mitigation measures have been detailed herein that will ensure these features are not impacted during construction activities. Because these sensitive habitat areas would in fact be preserved as a result of the project, there could be positive cumulative effects in the context of the site's importance in the overall area.

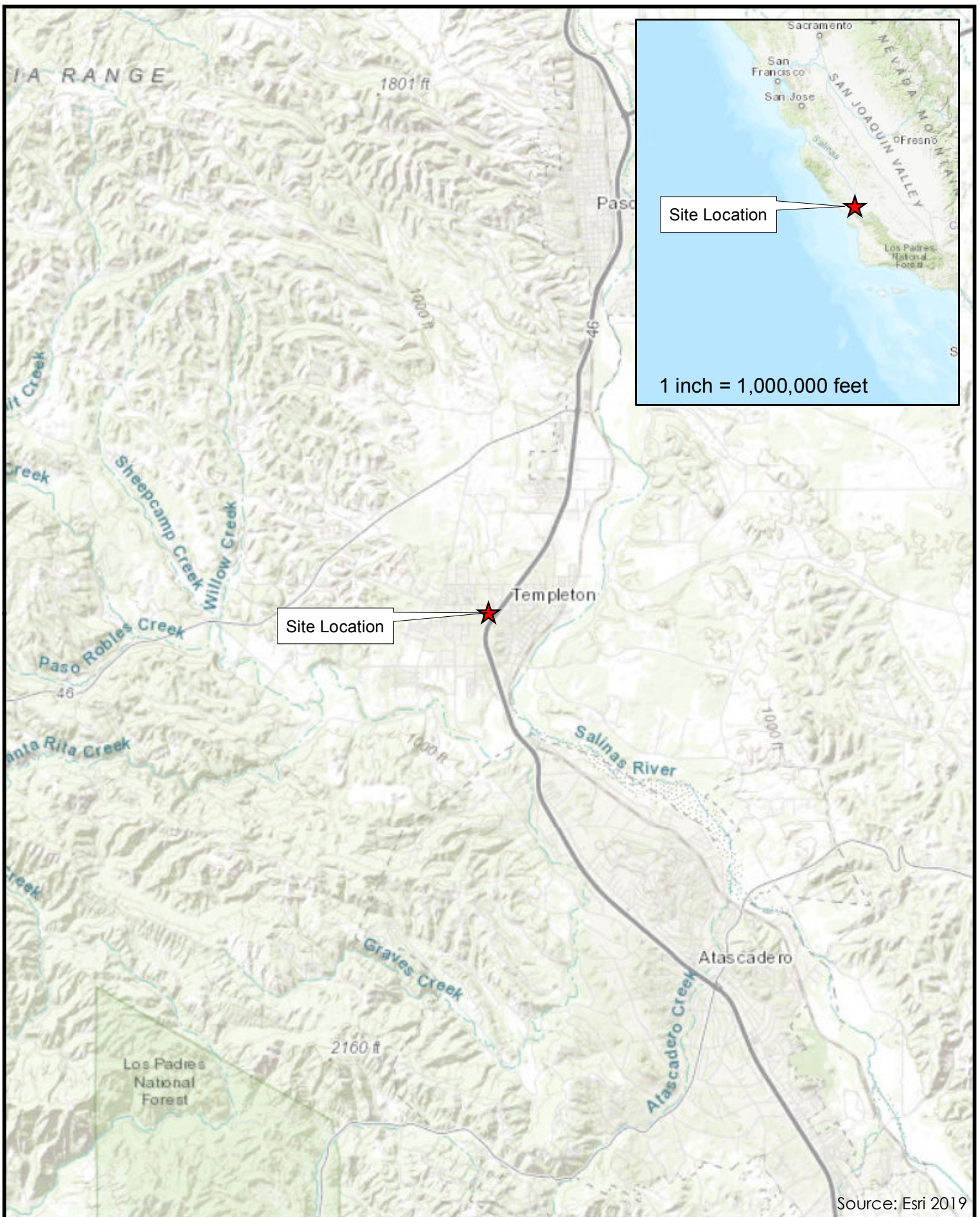
## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Kevin Merk Associates, LLC (KMA) conducted this biological resources and wetland assessment for the Rolling Hills III, 246 Bennett Way multi-family residential housing project. The project site is in the unincorporated community of Templeton, in San Luis Obispo County, California. The approximately 3-acre property is located to the south of Las Tablas Road and to the east of Bennett Way (Figures 1 and 2). It is identified by Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 040-289-020, and is on the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) Templeton 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (T 27 S, R 12 E; 35.553105 N, -120.715011 W). The property is bounded to the north by a veterinary office and Las Tablas Road beyond; the west by multi-family residential development; the southwest by a small riparian corridor along an unnamed tributary of "Toad Creek" that is surrounded by suburban development; and, to the southeast and east by Bennett Way and Highway 101 beyond (Figure 2).

The purpose of this assessment was to assist Peoples' Self-Help Housing with the County of San Luis Obispo's (County) compliance review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for construction of the housing project and associated access road(s). This report evaluates the potential for the project site to support special-status biological resources (plants, animals, sensitive natural communities, designated critical habitat, and jurisdictional areas), and evaluates the site's existing environmental conditions to determine whether special-status biological resources may be present onsite and could be adversely affected by the project. Because the development would require a drainage crossing, a wetland assessment was conducted to determine the extent of the area that meets the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) criteria as waters of the United States, including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1972); the extent of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act and Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act; and, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction under the California Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq.

### **1.1 Project Description**

As we understand, the proposed project involves the construction of multi-family residential housing on approximately 1.9-acres of frequently disturbed Non-native Grassland. The preliminary site plan and discussions with the project planning team would cluster two-story housing buildings with one- to three-bedroom units in upland areas away from onsite drainage features. The project also would include a community building, classroom area, play area, BBQ/picnic areas, paved parking spaces, and an access road to Bennett Way. The building site would be located to the north of the unnamed tributary to Toad Creek ("Drainage B") and to the south and west of an ephemeral drainage ("Drainage A") that is also connected to Toad Creek. The project proposes to provide access to Bennett Way via construction of either a bridge or a hydro-arch soft bottom culvert that would span the creek bed and avoid impacts to potential Clean Water Act jurisdictional areas of the drainage feature. The riparian zone along the Drainage B would be outside of the project impact area. Use of the grassy area to the south of the Drainage B riparian zone may also be considered in the future development plans. Stormwater retention basins would also be proposed onsite for stormwater runoff infiltration in compliance with the County of San Luis Obispo's and State Water Resources Board's Low Impact Development (LID) requirements.



Source: Esri 2019





Study Area Boundary

**National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS)**



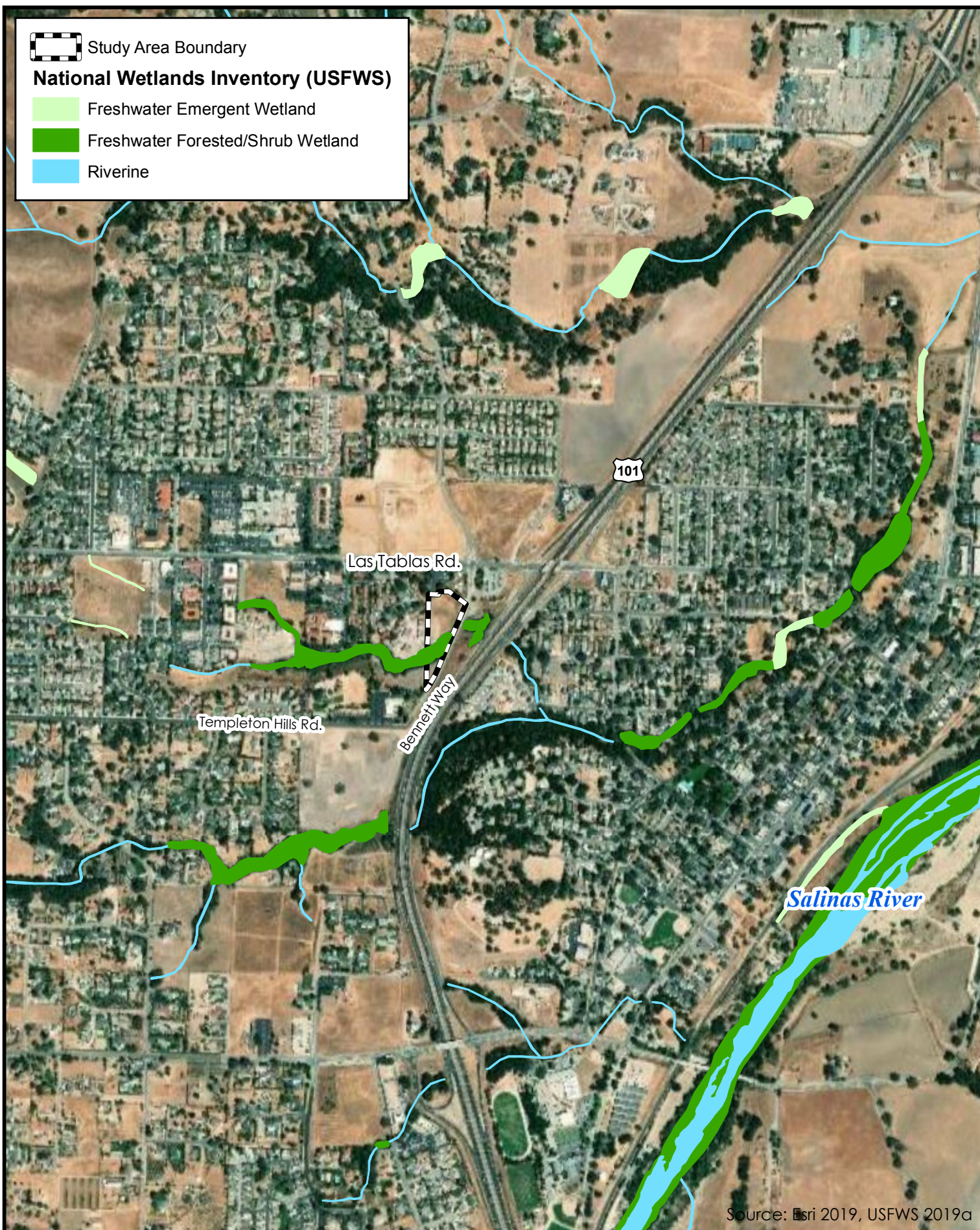
Freshwater Emergent Wetland



Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland



Riverine



Source: Esri 2019, USFWS 2019a



KEVIN MERK ASSOCIATES



1 inch = 1,000 feet

**246 Bennett Way, Templeton, CA**

Peoples' Self-Help Housing

**Figure 2**

Aerial Overview



## **1.2 Regulatory Overview**

For the purpose of this report, special-status species are those plants and animals listed, or Candidates for listing, as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal Endangered Species Act (FESA); those listed as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); and, animals designated as "Species of Special Concern," "Fully Protected," or "Watch List" by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; 2018a).

FESA provisions protect federally listed species and their habitats from unlawful take, which is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any of the specifically enumerated conduct." Under these regulations, "harm" may include significant habitat modification or degradation that kills or injures wildlife. Candidate species are not afforded legal protection under FESA; however, Candidate species typically receive special attention during the CEQA environmental review process. CESA provides for the protection and preservation of native species of plants and animals that are experiencing a significant decline which if not halted would lead to a threatened or endangered designation. Habitat degradation or modification is not expressly included in the definition of take under CESA.

CDFW maintains a list of Species of Special Concern for those species in which declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction. The goal of designating species as special concern is to halt or reverse their decline early enough to secure their long-term viability. Species of Special Concern may receive special attention during environmental review, but do not have statutory protection. FESA and CESA emphasize early consultation to avoid impacts on Threatened and Endangered species. As part of the consultation process, project proponents are directed to develop appropriate mitigation plans to offset project effects on listed species and their habitats.

Critical habitat is designated for species listed under FESA, and are areas that contain the physical or biological features which are essential to the conservation of those species and may need special management or protection. Critical habitat designations affect only federal agency actions or federally funded or permitted activities. Activities by private landowners are not affected if there is no federal nexus.

Rare plants are those defined as occurring on California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1, 2, 3 and 4 developed by the CDFW working in concert with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS; CDFW 2018b). Rank 4 species are a watch list, and typically do not meet CEQA's rarity definition (Section 15380), but are included here because they may be of local concern. The CRPR definitions are as follows:

- *Rank 1A = Presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere;*
- *Rank 1B.1 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat);*
- *Rank 1B.2 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened);*
- *Rank 1B.3 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known);*

- *Rank 2A = Presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere;*
- *Rank 2B = Rare or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere;*
- *Rank 3 = Plants needing more information (most are species that are taxonomically unresolved; some species on this list meet the definitions of rarity under CNPS and CESA); and*
- *Rank 4.2 = Plants of limited distribution (watch list), fairly threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened).*
- *Rank 4.3= Plants of limited distribution (watch list), not very threatened in California.*

Raptors (e.g., eagles, hawks, and owls) and their nests are protected under both federal and state regulations. Birds of prey are protected in California under the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5. Disturbance that causes nest abandonment or loss of reproductive effort is considered take by CDFW. Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) applies to many bird species, including common species, and prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in migratory birds, including whole birds, parts of birds, bird nests, and eggs. The act restricts construction disturbance during the nesting season that could result in the incidental loss of fertile eggs or nestlings or otherwise lead to nest abandonment.

Sensitive natural communities are those native plant communities listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW 2019a) as rare or of limited distribution. They are evaluated using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology to assign global and state ranks based on rarity and threat, and these ranks are reviewed and adopted by CDFW's (2019b) Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP). Evaluation with the state (S) level results in ranks ranging from 1 (very rare or threatened) to 5 (demonstrably secure). Those with ranks of S1 to S3 are to be addressed in the environmental review process under CEQA (CDFW 2019b).

California Fish and Game Code Section 1602 requires that CDFW be notified of any proposed activity that may affect any river, stream or lake by: 1) substantially diverting or obstructing the natural flow; 2) substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel or bank; or, 3) depositing or disposing of debris, waste, or other materials. The notification requirement applies to ephemeral and perennial drainages, including streams, desert washes, and watercourses with subsurface flow, and may apply to projects conducted within flood plains of a regulated water body. The CDFW jurisdictional limits are generally the outer edge of riparian vegetation, or the top of bank, whichever is farther. Projects that would impact CDFW jurisdictional areas are required to complete a notification form and submit a fee, in order to obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA).

CDFW follows the USFWS definition for wetlands that is based on the presence of at least one positive indicator (i.e., hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and/or wetland hydrology) for the area to be considered a wetland. This definition includes swamps; freshwater, brackish water, and saltwater marshes; bogs; vernal pools; periodically inundated saltflats; intertidal mudflats; wet meadows; wet pastures; springs and seeps; lakes, ponds and rivers; and any other area that has one of the three positive indicators. The Fish and Game Commission's wetland policy contains offsetting impacts to wetland resources on an acre-for-acre basis (i.e., for every acre of wetland lost, no less than an acre of wetland must be created in non-wetland habitat). Created wetland habitat must have at least equal fish and wildlife habitat values.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulates discharges of fill and dredged material under the Clean Water Act Section 401, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the state and federal "No Net Loss" policies for wetlands. The 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Program protects "waters of the state", including wetlands, riparian areas, and headwaters. Most projects are regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) which oversees the area in which the project is located. Although originally described as "dredge and fill" regulations, subsequent rules extended regulation to any activities that would disturb any surface waters or wetlands. Waters of the state are defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state" (Water Code Section 130509(e)), and includes both natural and artificial channels, all "waters of the United States" (defined below) and all non-jurisdictional wetlands, including areas regulated by CDFW under the Lake and Streambed Alteration program. Projects that affect only waters of the state, and not waters of the United States, must apply for Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) instead of a 401 Certification pursuant to California Water Code Section 13260(a). These requirements apply to projects located within small surface water bodies deemed to be "isolated"; those that do not meet federal wetland criteria; or, are above the line of ordinary high water. Under Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges to Waters Deemed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to be Outside of Federal Jurisdiction (General WDRs), any person proposing to discharge waste that could affect the quality of these waters of the state must file a report of waste discharge to the appropriate RWQCB. The RWQCB will prescribe project-specific WDRs to be implemented, and the SWRCB prescribes general WDRs for given categories of discharges.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into "waters of the United States", which includes such waters as rivers, lakes, streams, and most wetlands. Specifically, waters of the United States include traditional navigable waters (TNWs); wetlands; tributaries to navigable waters of the United States, including adjacent wetlands, lakes and ponds; interstate waters and their tributaries; and, other features such as intermittent streams or tributaries that are not part of interstate or navigable waters where effects to these waters could affect interstate or foreign commerce. USACE defines wetlands as having three parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. In 2017, President Donald Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rescind the waters of the United States rule, and the EPA responded by suspending the rule. Subsequently, an injunction was issued that continued the waters of the United States rule in California as well as several other states.

In tidal waters of the United States, USACE jurisdiction is defined as the landward limit of the high tide line. In nontidal waters of the United States, USACE jurisdiction extends to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), which is defined as "the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or the presence of litter and debris." Identification of the OHWM is conducted by examining physical evidence of surface flow in the stream channel.

USACE jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act extends to the tributaries of navigable waters. Jurisdiction is recognized even when a tributary flows for a significant distance before reaching a navigable water; is several times removed (i.e., is tributary to more tributaries); or flows some distance through artificial features such as ditches, culverts, pipes, storm sewers, or ponds—waters with artificial features can be considered jurisdictional. In addition, "other waters" could be determined to be waters of the United States on a case-specific basis by showing that, either alone

or in combination with similarly situated other waters in the region, they have a significant nexus to a TNW, interstate water, or the territorial seas. A "significant nexus" is a chemical, physical, or biological connection between tributaries and downstream other waters. Hydrologic connection alone may not suffice in all cases to establish USACE jurisdiction, and there must be ecological significance of the connection such as influence on downstream water quality; transport of wood, sediment, nutrients, pesticides, or metals; functions such as storing and cleansing water; movement of organisms or their seeds or eggs; or hydrologic or biogeochemical interactions among surface or groundwater flows.

Projects within the boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands or waters would require a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) from the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board, and/or a Section 404 permit from the USACE, depending on the location of project impacts within each agency's jurisdiction. Any projects requiring a Section 404 permit must first obtain a Section 401 permit. Impacts to waters of the state that do not require a Section 404 permit may require a WDR. Additionally, if any species protected under FESA may be present in the project area, the Section 404 permitting pursuant to Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act requires authorization under the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), as appropriate.

CEQA defines a *significant effect on the environment* as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment." Projects that may have significant effects are required to be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Under CEQA, a project's effects on biotic resources are deemed significant where the project would do any of the following:

- Potentially substantially degrade the quality of the environment
- Substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels
- Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community
- Substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, threatened, or rare species
- Have possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable

In addition to the criteria above that trigger mandatory findings of significance, Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines includes six additional impacts to consider when analyzing the significance of project effects, which may or may not be significant, depending on the level of impact. A project's effects on biological resources could be deemed significant if the project would do the following:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.



- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

If the project proponent agrees to mitigation measures or project modifications that would avoid all significant effects or would mitigate the significant effect(s) to a point below the level of significance, an EIR would not be required. The project proponent would be bound to implement the mitigation measures to reduce the project effects to below a level of significance. Mitigation is not required for effects that are less than significant.

## **2.0 METHODS**

### **2.1 Biological Resources Assessment**

Google Earth aerial imagery was employed in coordination with field surveys to define the current extent of onsite plant communities and assist in identifying potential habitat for special-status species. The study area for this investigation covered the entire parcel (Figure 2).

KMA's Principal Biologist Kevin Merk and Senior Biologist Susan Christopher conducted a field survey and wetland assessment of the property on May 9, 2019 to assess the potential of the site to support sensitive biological resources. The site was accessed from Bennett Way and the survey was conducted by walking and visually inspecting all portions of the study area. For details on the methodology for the wetland assessment, please see Section 2.2.

A list was made of dominant plant species in each plant community, and all plant and animal species observed were noted (Appendix A). Plant taxonomy followed the Jepson Flora Project (2019), and nomenclature for animals is reported as it appears in the CNDDDB (CDFW 2019a) or as updates are available (California Herps 2019). Plant communities and dominant vegetative features were mapped on ESRI (2019) aerial imagery. Classification of the onsite plant communities was based on the CDFW's (2019b) *Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program* which generally follows Sawyer et al.'s (2009) *Manual of California Vegetation*. Holland's (1986) *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* was also referenced as the sensitive natural communities listed in the CNDDDB follows the Holland community names. A *Guide to Wildlife Habitats in California*, which is updated through the California Wildlife Habitat Relations System (CDFW 2019c), was also cross-referenced. Representative photos of each of the habitat types onsite and the proposed project area were taken, and a photo plate is included as Appendix B.

The Web Soil Survey was used to identify the soil mapping units present within the project site (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2019a). The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) was reviewed to evaluate the extent of identified wetlands on the site and in the vicinity (USFWS 2019a). USGS topographic maps were also reviewed for information on hydrologic features. Designated critical habitat for species listed under FESA was mapped according to information provided in USFWS (2019b).

The CNDDDB (CDFW 2019a) was queried for special-status plant and animal species occurrences and sensitive natural communities within the following nine USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles: Templeton, Adelaida, Paso Robles, Estrella, Creston, Santa Margarita, Atascadero, Morro Bay North, and York Mountain. CNDDDB records of special-status plant and animal occurrences and sensitive

natural communities within a five-mile buffer of the study area were mapped. From the list of all special-status species in the CNDDB search, local distribution and ecological information was obtained from a variety of online and published sources (Hoover 1970, Jennings and Hayes 1994, Bolster 1998, Moyle et al. 2015, Calflora 2019, California Native Plant Society 2019, California Herps 2019, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a, 2019b; CDFW 2019c). Those species that occur in habitats within the Salinas Valley surrounding Templeton and eastern slope of the Santa Lucia Range, as well as each species recorded in the CNDDB within five miles, were considered to be within the project vicinity (Appendix C). Other species that were in the nine-quadrangle search that had limited distributions restricted to coastal areas and the ridge or western slope of the Santa Lucia Range were considered to be outside of the project vicinity. Based upon our knowledge of the local area, we included additional special-status biological resources that have been documented in the project vicinity.

From the list of all special-status species known from the project vicinity, an evaluation of those with potential to occur onsite was conducted based upon the suitability of habitat conditions on the property, and the local distribution (geographical and elevational ranges) and specific requirements (plant communities and soils) of the species considered. Definitive surveys for the presence or absence of special-status animal species were not conducted. We relied on existing information and known occurrence records in the region coupled with our site-specific observations from other locations in the upper Salinas Valley to make determinations for the probability of occurrence of special-status species in the study area. If any special-status species were observed during the site surveys, these species would have been listed as "Present" in Appendix C. Those species listed as "Potential" met the following requirements: records in the site vicinity, appropriate plant community and/or soil associations onsite, and within the elevational range of the species. If any one of these elements was not met or considered to be marginal for the site, but the other elements were present, that species was considered "Unlikely". If onsite environmental conditions were clearly inappropriate, or the species has a limited distribution that does not overlap the site, those species were considered "Not Expected". If any life stage or particular life history use (i.e., foraging) fit the requirements of the onsite conditions, even while other aspects were inappropriate for certain functions (i.e., breeding), these species were still considered to have potential to occur onsite, but the likelihood of occurring onsite along with a description is provided in the special-status species table (Appendix C) as well as a more in-depth analysis in the text.

We determined whether special-status plant and animal species, sensitive natural communities, wetlands or other waters under state or federal jurisdiction, and designated critical habitat could occur on the site or nearby. We then evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed project on each of these biological resource issues, including the six additional impacts in CEQA Appendix G. An evaluation of significance as defined under CEQA is provided for each potential impact, and mitigation is proposed to reduce impacts to a level below the significance threshold.

## 2.2 Wetland Assessment

The delineation of potential Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the USACE, and RWQCB and CDFW jurisdictional areas, was conducted by Kevin Merk and Susan Christopher on May 9, 2019. The methodology detailed in the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and refined in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (Version 2.0; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2008) was employed in this assessment. Recent and historic aerial photographs of the property (Google Earth 2019) and USGS topographic maps were used to characterize both current and historic drainage

patterns. The *Web Soil Survey* (NRCS 2019a), the NRCS (2019b) *Hydric Soils* list, and *National Wetlands Inventory* (USFWS 2019a) were also consulted for background information on the site. The *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al. 1979) was also referenced.

Six data points were established in potential wetland features and adjacent upland areas to characterize the extent of federal and state jurisdiction and identify the wetland boundary. Information recorded at each data point location included plant species composition, indicators of hydric soils, and presence/absence of wetland hydrology, as described below. Climatic and hydrologic conditions were considered to be typical for the time of year that the wetland assessment was conducted. Although vegetation was disturbed by mowing, this activity did not appear to affect species composition and species were identifiable; therefore, vegetation was not considered to be significantly disturbed or problematic. In addition, soils and hydrology were not disturbed or problematic, and "normal circumstances" were considered to be present.

The percent cover of individual plant species was recorded, and their wetland indicator status was determined, to give the presence/absence of hydrophytic vegetation. *Hydrophytic vegetation* occurs in areas where frequency and duration of inundation and/or soil saturation exerts a primary controlling influence on plant species composition. Plant species are assigned a wetland indicator status according to the probability of occurrence in wetlands. The *National Wetland Plant List: 2016 Update of Wetland Ratings* (NWPL; Lichvar et al. 2016), provides the indicator status of vascular plant species within the following four basic categories based on their frequency of occurrence in wetlands:

- Obligate wetland (OBL). Hydrophyte that almost always occurs in wetlands.
- Facultative Wetland (FACW). Hydrophyte that usually occurs in wetlands, but occasionally found in non-wetlands.
- Facultative (FAC). Hydrophyte that occurs in wetlands and non-wetlands.
- Facultative Upland (FACU). Non-hydrophyte that usually occurs in non-wetlands, but occasionally found in wetlands.
- Upland (UPL). Non-hydrophyte that almost never occurs in wetlands.

Any species not appearing on the NWPL is assumed to be an upland species. An area is considered to have hydrophytic vegetation when greater than 50 percent of the dominant species across any vegetative stratum (tree, sapling/shrub, herb or woody vine) are assigned to FAC, FACW, and/or OBL status categories. Hydrophytic vegetation may also be considered to be present with a Prevalence Index of at least 3.0.

*Hydric soils* occur in areas that are saturated and/or inundated for a sufficient duration during the growing season to develop anaerobic or reducing conditions. Field indicators of hydric soils include redoximorphic features (e.g., concentrations of oxidized minerals such as iron), presence of hydrogen sulfide gas, histic features, and gleyed matrix, as well as other attributes. Hydric soils were evaluated in accordance with *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States* (NRCS 2018). A pit was excavated at the data observation points to examine the soil for positive indicators of hydric soils and wetland hydrology, to a depth of approximately 18 inches. Colors of moist soils were compared with the Munsell® soil color chart and recorded on wetland determination data forms.

*Wetland hydrology* refers to observations of the presence of water, such as surface water, water table or soil saturation. If direct observation of wetland hydrology is not possible (e.g., seasonal wetlands), the presence of wetland hydrology is determined by primary and secondary indicators such as surface soil cracks, drift deposits, drainage patterns, and an OHWM.

Areas determined to be potential Wetland Waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of USACE had positive indicators of all three wetland criteria. If one or more of these parameters was not met, the point was not considered to be within a USACE-defined wetland. Areas of the site, such as Drainage A, that did not support greater than 50% cover of wetland plants but contained positive indicators of wetland hydrology connected to a relatively permanent water or traditional navigable water were identified as non-wetland "other waters" of the U.S. CDFW jurisdiction was determined by the presence of at least one of the three wetland criteria. RWQCB and CDFW jurisdictional limits on the site were determined based on the extent of a defined bed and bank and/or the outer extent of riparian vegetation associated with a drainage feature, whichever is farther. Areas within the property that are potentially under the jurisdiction of each of these three agencies were mapped, and the amount of area occupied by these features on the property was calculated.

### **3.0 RESULTS**

A list of plants and animals observed during the survey is included as Appendix A. Appendix B is a photo plate of photographs taken during the site visit to characterize the onsite conditions. Appendix C includes a list of all special-status species and sensitive plant communities identified in the CNDDDB within the site vicinity, and an evaluation as to their potential presence onsite. Completed wetland determination data forms are provided in Appendix D. Figure 1 is a site location map, and Figure 2 shows the wetland habitats recorded in the NWI in the site vicinity, and a soils map is included as Figure 3. Figure 4 is a habitat map showing the plant communities and land use types on the property. Figure 5 is the CNDDDB map showing the locations of special-status biological resources recorded within five miles of the study area, and Figure 6 is the wetland assessment map.

#### **3.1 Existing Conditions**

The property is a relatively small parcel of disturbed grassland surrounded by suburban development (Figure 2). Patches of undeveloped land in close vicinity to the site are currently under construction or are proposed for development. Highway 101 to the east of the property probably represents a barrier to movement for many wildlife species. There are no obvious connections between the project site and undeveloped habitat areas in the vicinity. The non-native grassland onsite has been regularly mowed, and historic aerial photography showed site disturbance over at least the past 15 years. The portion of Drainage A (see Figure 4) onsite was mowed at the time of the survey and has historically been mowed, which may have softened the bed and bank line of the channel. The slope to the east of Drainage A may have been heightened by placing fill for the construction of Bennett Way. Otherwise, the non-native grassland habitat onsite reaches its highest elevation along the northwestern property line and slopes to the east and south toward Drainage A and B, respectively. The non-native grassland in the southern end of the property, outside of the impact area, also slopes upward to the south. Elevations in the study area range from 805 to 822 feet (245 to 251 meters).

An unnamed tributary of "Toad Creek" (Drainage B) runs through the southern portion of the property and is a remnant patch of natural habitat. It is composed of a riparian corridor with tall mature trees, wetland habitat along the drainage channel, and a source of water during average

precipitation conditions. Development has encroached on this drainage, shortening it to a roughly one-third mile long band of riparian vegetation, which on average is about 100 feet wide. Disturbed grassland exists as a narrow band to the south of the riparian zone (Figure 2). For more information about the onsite drainages, see Section 3.5.1 below.

### 3.2 Soils

The property contains only one soil type, Lockwood-Concepcion complex (2 to 9 percent slopes) (NRCS 2019a). These soils are alluvium derived from sedimentary rock, and form on toeslopes. The upper 26 inches are composed of channery loam (NRCS 2019a). Channery is thin, flat fragments of shale. Soils observed during the wetland assessment were shale clay loam, with a higher percentage of rocks in the upland areas.

### 3.3 Habitat Types

Six plant communities or habitat types were determined to occur within the property: 1) Non-native Grassland; 2) Wetland; 3) Ruderal/Disturbed; 4) Riparian; 5) Coyote Brush; and 6) Ornamental. A description of these habitat types is given below and the areas occupied by these habitat types onsite is shown on Figure 4.

#### 3.3.1 Non-native Grassland

The Non-native Grassland habitat onsite has been frequently mowed and, in some places, may occupy areas with fill soils from past development in the area. The dominant species in this community were yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), California burclover (*Medicago polymorpha*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*B. hordeaceus*), hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*), and Chilean trefoil (*Acmispon wrangelianus*). These are non-native weedy species that are adapted to disturbance. This habitat type corresponds to the Non-native Grassland community described by Holland (1986) and the Wild Oats and Annual Brome Grasslands semi-natural alliance (CDFW 2019b).

#### 3.3.2 Wetland

Wetland habitat is present along the channels of Drainages A and B (Figure 4), and the jurisdictional status of these areas is described in further detail in Section 3.5. Wetland plant species were present in Drainage A, but there were also Non-Native Grassland species present, and this area had been mowed. The wetland species in Drainage A included Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*), meadow barley (*H. brachyantherum*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). The wetland community in Drainage B between the culvert under Bennett Way and the Riparian habitat had a greater dominance and diversity of wetland plant species that had become established under conditions of more persistent hydrology. Dominant species included meadow barley and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), as well as tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), curly dock, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*). Wetland habitat also was present along the channel within the riparian zone on Drainage B. This community was composed entirely of wetland plant species including watercress and water starwort (*Callitriche* sp.), which occurred in wetted areas, as well as beardless wild rye (*Elymus triticoides*), common plantain (*Plantago major*), and slender willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum*). This area also had an overstory of mature riparian trees and a layer of shrubs with species composition as described below for the Riparian habitat. The Wetland habitat in the grassland areas corresponds to the Meadow Barley Patches association described by Sawyer et al. (2009). The





Study Area Boundary

**Soil Type (NRCS Web Soil Survey)**



Lockwood-Concepcion complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes

Las Tablas Rd.

Bennett Way

101

Templeton Hills Rd

Source: Esri 2019, NRCS 2019



KEVIN MERK ASSOCIATES



1 inch = 200 feet

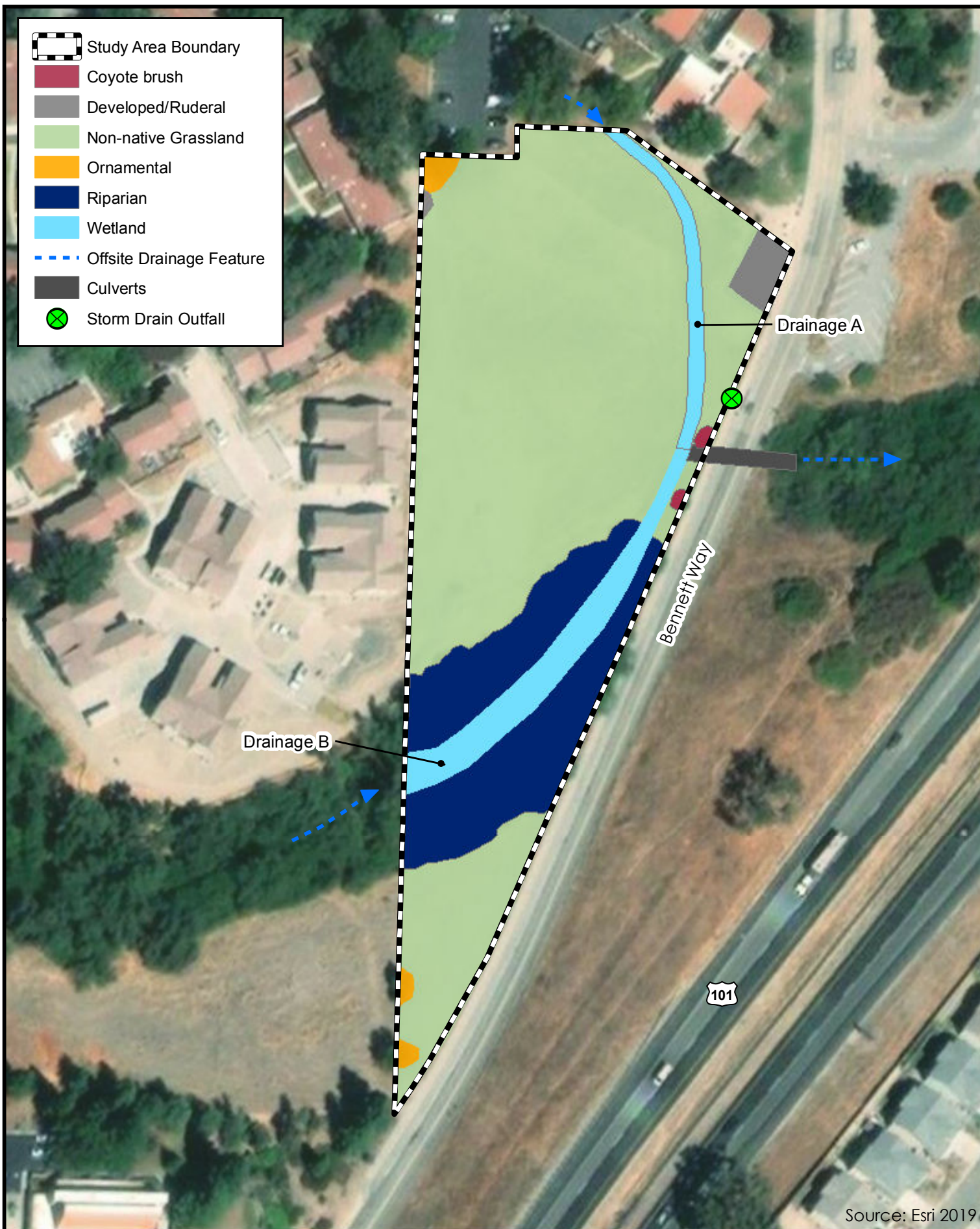
**246 Bennett Way, Templeton, CA**

Peoples' Self-Help Housing

**Figure 3**

Soil Map





Wetland habitat in Drainage B within the riparian habitat corresponds to the *Leymus triticoides* alliance (Sawyer et al. 2009) with other characteristic species also present.

### 3.3.3 Ruderal/Disturbed

Ruderal/Disturbed areas onsite consist of a concrete sidewalk along Bennett Way that lies within the parcel (Figure 4).

### 3.3.4 Riparian

Riparian habitat exists as a band along Drainage B (Figure 4), and consists of an overstory of mature trees and moderately dense shrub and understory layers. Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and red willow (*Salix laevigata*) comprised the tallest trees in the overstory. The shrub stratum consisted of American dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Understory species included ripgut brome, California brome, and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). This habitat type corresponds to the Central Coast Riparian Scrub or Forest community described by Holland (1986) and the Red Willow Thickets association described by Sawyer et al. (2009).

### 3.3.5 Coyote Brush

There were two small, isolated patches of coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*; Figure 4). These shrubs were present surrounded by Non-native Grassland habitat, and did not have other coastal scrub species in the understory. This habitat type would fall under the Central (Lucian) Coastal Scrub community described by Holland (1986) and the Coyote Brush Scrub association described by Sawyer et al. (2009).

### 3.3.6 Ornamental

A small area of planted ornamental trees offsite to the northwest consisted of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and other pine species (*Pinus* sp.). The canopy of one of these trees slightly overlaps the property boundary (Figure 4). Other planted pine trees were in the southern corner of the property. The ornamental habitat type is not a natural plant community.

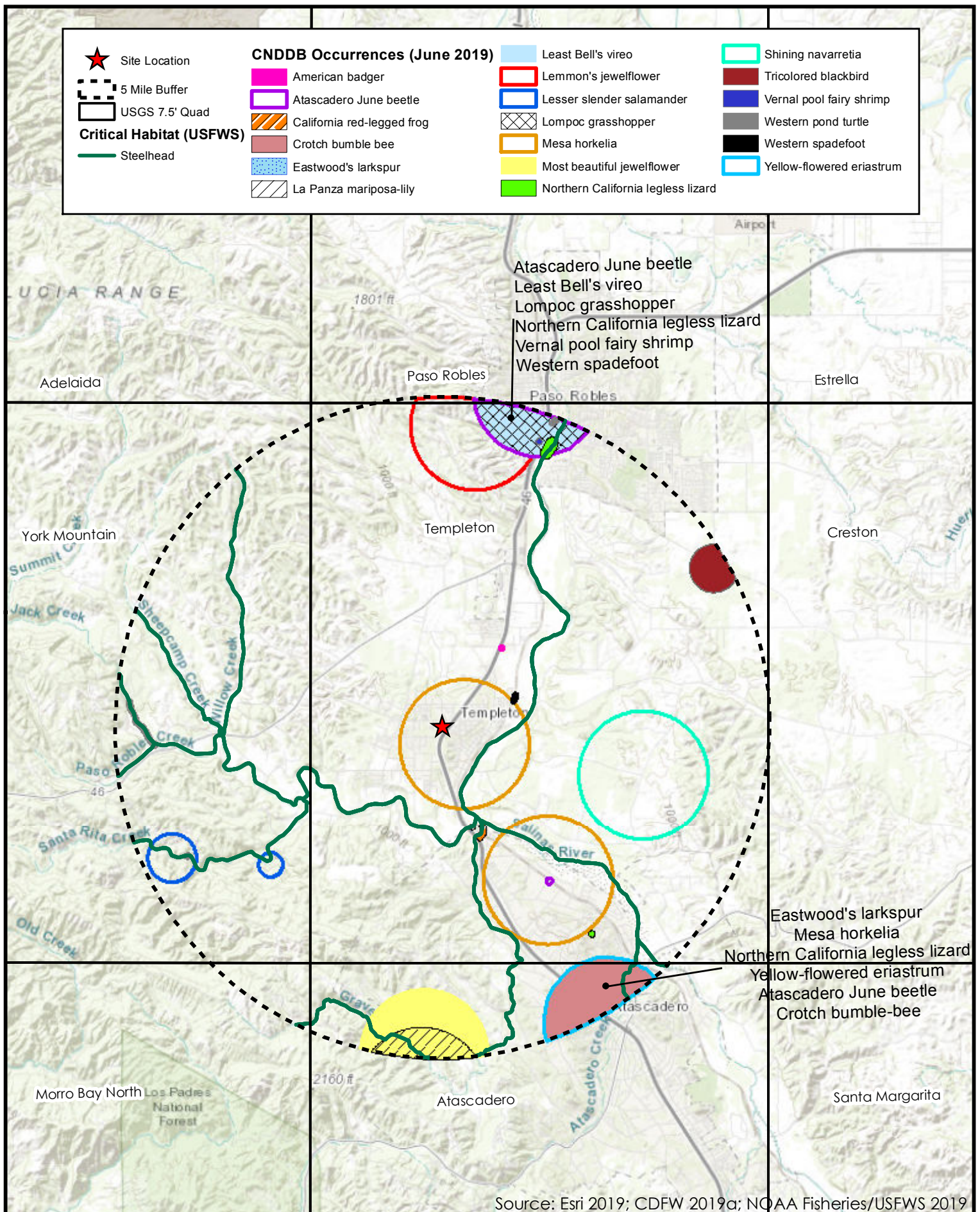
## 3.4 Special-status Biological Resources

Figure 5 illustrates the CNDDDB-documented occurrences of special-status plants and animals and designated critical habitat within five miles of the property. No sensitive natural communities were reported in the CNDDDB within five miles of the site, but those known to occur in the larger vicinity are included in Appendix C and described in Section 3.4.2 below. Appendix C also provides a list of special-status biological resources recorded from the site vicinity, their listing status, habitat associations, and our assessment as to whether these resources have potential to occur onsite. Those resources with potential to occur on the project site are described in further detail below.

### 3.4.1 Special Status Plants

The Non-native Grassland habitat on the site has been regularly mowed, and this type of disturbance would preclude most special-status plant species from occurring. The entire grassland area was surveyed during the site visit and no special-status plant species were seen, but the survey was conducted late in the season for most plant species and the site had been recently mowed.





Source: Esri 2019; CDFW 2019a; NOAA Fisheries/USFWS 2019

There is a slight chance that annual species which can withstand some level of disturbance could occur on the site but were not seen during the survey because they could grow and flower early in the spring before mowing is done, and were unidentifiable during the late spring survey. Two special-status plant species were determined to have potential to occur within the Non-native Grassland habitat on the property due to plant community and soils affiliations, documented elevational range, and records in the site vicinity:

- **San Luis Obispo owl's-clover** (*Castilleja densiflora* var. *obispoensis*) — CRPR 1B.2
- **Shining navarretia** (*Navarretia nigelliformis* ssp. *radians*) — CRPR 1B.2

Reference occurrences were visited for both species and given the later rains in the spring of 2019, both species were still in identifiable condition in May when the survey occurred. While the site was mowed, it appears that the regular cycle of disturbance and past development in the immediate area makes it less likely that these two species could be present onsite. There were no other rare plant species identified in the background review that could potentially occur in the Riparian or Wetland habitats onsite. Ruderal/Disturbed and Ornamental land uses would not support rare plant species, and the two Coyote Brush shrubs did not have any coastal scrub understory.

### 3.4.2 Sensitive Natural Communities

The Wetland and Riparian habitats onsite are sensitive natural communities. The Meadow Barley Patches association along Drainage A and the northern portion of Drainage B has a State Rarity Rank of S2 (CDFW 2019b). The Wetland habitat within the Riparian zone in Drainage B and represented by the *Leymus triticoides* alliance has a State Rarity Rank of S3 (CDFW 2019b). These habitats would be included under the community Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh (see Appendix C). The Riparian habitat corresponds to the sensitive natural community Central Coast Arroyo Willow Scrub or Forest, or the Red Willow Thickets association, which has a State Rarity Rank of S3 (CDFW 2019b).

The Non-native Grassland habitat onsite, also called the Wild Oats and Annual Brome Grasslands semi-natural alliance, is comprised predominantly by non-native species and is not a sensitive natural community. Similarly, the Ruderal/Disturbed and Ornamental habitat types are not natural plant communities. Coastal Scrub, or Coyote Brush Scrub, has a State Rarity Rank of S5 and is not considered sensitive under CEQA.

### 3.4.3 Special Status Animals

Based upon our background review of special-status species records, one reptile, five bird species and two mammal species were considered to have potential to occur on the property. While the listing status, habitat associations and evaluation of occurrence are summarized in Appendix C, these eight species are described in further detail below. Also see Figure 5 for a map of CNDDDB wildlife records within the vicinity of the property.

The **northern California legless lizard** (*Anniella pulchra*) is a CDFW Species of Special Concern that spends most of its life underground. It is often associated with loose sandy or loamy soils that it buries into, but it can also be found in areas with other soil types where it can be found under cover objects, leaf litter, or vegetation that provide moist conditions. This species has been recorded at several locations in the project site vicinity, including developed areas where they are associated with landscaping and anthropogenic objects (CDFW 2019a). The soils on the project site

are loam, and the Riparian habitat onsite is potentially suitable. They are unlikely to be abundant in the Non-native Grassland habitat where project impacts would occur due to low vegetative cover, but individuals could move into the edge of this habitat if they are present in adjacent areas.

The **great blue heron** (*Ardea herodias*) does not have a specific listing status but is considered a sensitive species by CDFW for nesting colonies, which are located in forests near bodies of water. Appropriate habitat for nesting colonies is not present on the property. Individuals occasionally forage in grasslands or fields, including those in suburban environments. There are numerous sightings of great blue herons near the property (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a), and individuals could occur periodically as transients.

**Least Bell's vireo** (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) is a federally and state Endangered species and is on the CDFW Watch List. It breeds exclusively in riparian forests, and historically bred in the vicinity of the property but breeding in this region has been very rare in recent decades. The most recent breeding record is from the Salinas River north of Paso Robles in 2005 (CDFW 2019a). Potentially suitable breeding habitat is present in the Riparian habitat onsite, but because breeding is so rare in this area they are unlikely to breed onsite in this small patch of habitat. Any breeding pairs in the area would be more likely to use the Salinas River, where there is more expansive Riparian habitat and less human disturbance in comparison to the subject property. There is a slight chance individuals could occur onsite as transients if they occupied other habitats in the vicinity or were migrating through.

The **Purple martin** (*Progne subis*) is a CDFW Species of Special Concern for nesting. This species nests in coniferous woodlands with tall trees, or less often in urban or suburban environments where they use artificial structures. Nesting in California has become less common over time, and there is only one known breeding site in the county, which is southwest of Atascadero (CDFW 2019a, 2019c). This species migrates to South America during the winter, and during migration they can be in a variety of habitats, especially grasslands near water, wet meadows, and freshwater emergent wetlands (CDFW 2019c). There are numerous recent observations from the area surrounding the project site (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a); therefore, there is a possibility that individuals could occur on the site as transients. There is a slight potential for nesting in Riparian habitat onsite, or in the large trees on the property to the northwest where the alternative access road is proposed, but this chance is unlikely considering their current patterns of habitat use in the area.

The **tricolored blackbird** (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a state Candidate for Endangered status and a CDFW Species of Special Concern for nesting colonies. This species nests colonially near bodies of water with dense emergent or Riparian vegetation. The Wetland and Riparian habitats onsite are inappropriate for use by a nesting colony of this species because of the small amount of water and lack of freshwater emergent wetland plant species. However, individuals forage in a variety of habitats and have been documented recently near the site (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a). Therefore, individuals could occur in Grassland areas onsite while foraging.

The **white-tailed kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) is a CDFW Fully Protected species for nesting sites. This species prefers generally larger areas of open space for foraging and nesting, but occasionally they nest in Riparian forests (CDFW 2019c). They are unlikely to nest on the property due to human activity and disturbance surrounding the site. Numerous records of individual white-tailed kites have been documented close to the site (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a), and they could use the site periodically while foraging in the area.

The **pallid bat** (*Antrozous pallidus*) and **Townsend's big-eared bat** (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) are CDFW Species of Special Concern. Both species could forage over the site, but no roosting habitat is present. Roosting sites of the pallid bat are cavities or caves in rock features or buildings, and the Townsend's big-eared bat uses rock cliffs, tunnels or bridges. These structures are absent from the site. Foraging bats could occur periodically over the property at night.

#### 3.4.4 Designated Critical Habitat

Designated critical habitat in the project vicinity is limited to drainages suitable for the south-central California coast DPS steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss irideus*; Figure 5). This fish species is restricted to permanent streams without barriers to migration. The drainages onsite are too ephemeral to support steelhead and are not included in the listing of critical habitat for this species.

#### 3.4.5 Migratory Birds and Raptors

There are numerous bird species with potential to occur in the vicinity that build nests in trees and shrubs and could nest near project impact areas. In addition to the special-status bird species described above, avian species that could nest onsite also include raptors protected under California Fish and Game Code and common species that are protected under the MBTA. Although some bird species can nest on the ground in grassland habitats, nesting is not expected to occur on the property due to frequent disturbance by mowing, which reduces the height of vegetation and thereby eliminates protective cover required by these species. Nesting birds would be expected to use Riparian habitat onsite and the Ornamental habitats in surrounding offsite areas.

### 3.5 Wetland Assessment

#### 3.5.1 Hydrology

The project site occurs in the watershed of "Toad Creek", which is a local name apparently based upon a subdivision on the east side of Highway 101 and at the west end of Salinas Avenue in Templeton. "Toad Creek" is not a named drainage on the USGS 7.5-minute Templeton quadrangle, but the "Toad Creek Watershed" is recognized by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. Drainage B is shown as an ephemeral drainage on the USGS quadrangle, and Drainage A is only shown as a topographic depression.

Drainage A originates to the north of Las Tablas Road and flows southward under it in a culvert. The drainage area on the north side of Las Tablas has recently been graded, but it is likely that the culvert will continue to carry some surface water runoff from these areas to the north. There is a short section of open channel with defined bed and banks between Las Tablas Road and the parking lot for the veterinary office. Then, flows are conveyed to a culvert under the parking lot to the north of the subject property and discharges into a channel with an OHWM and scour pools in the unmowed area just to the north. Drainage A becomes a seasonally moist swale in the mowed area of the property. A storm drain outfall directs surface runoff from Bennett way into the drainage, and plant species composition below the outfall had a higher percentage of wetland plants. Drainage A converges with Drainage B at two approximately 36-inch culverts that convey flows under Bennett Way (see Figure 6 for locations of culverts).

Historically, Drainage B originated in the low hills to the west of South Bethel Road, and consisted of two ephemeral branches that flowed in an eastward direction. Suburban development has eliminated most of this drainage system, and currently Drainage B begins near Posada Lane and



consists of a constricted and shortened fragment of riparian vegetation that extends downstream to Bennett Way. It converges with Drainage A and flows through two approximately 36-inch culverts under Bennett Way, has another shortened section of riparian on the east side, and then goes into another drainage structure under Highway 101. Drainage B joins an unnamed ephemeral drainage that comes in from the south near the western end of Salinas Road in the downtown community of Templeton. This ephemeral drainage, "Toad Creek", flows northeast to join the Salinas River east of Ramada Drive. The Salinas River flows northwest to the city of Salinas, and enters the Pacific Ocean to the southwest of Castroville.

### 3.5.2 National Wetlands Inventory

The Riparian habitat along Drainage B is shown as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland in the NWI (Figure 2; USFWS 2019a). Drainage A is not mapped as wetland habitat in the NWI.

### 3.5.3 Hydric Soils

There is one soil type on the project site, Lockwood-Concepcion complex (2 to 9 percent slopes) (NRCS 2019a). This soil type is not listed on the hydric soils list for San Luis Obispo County (NRCS 2019b).

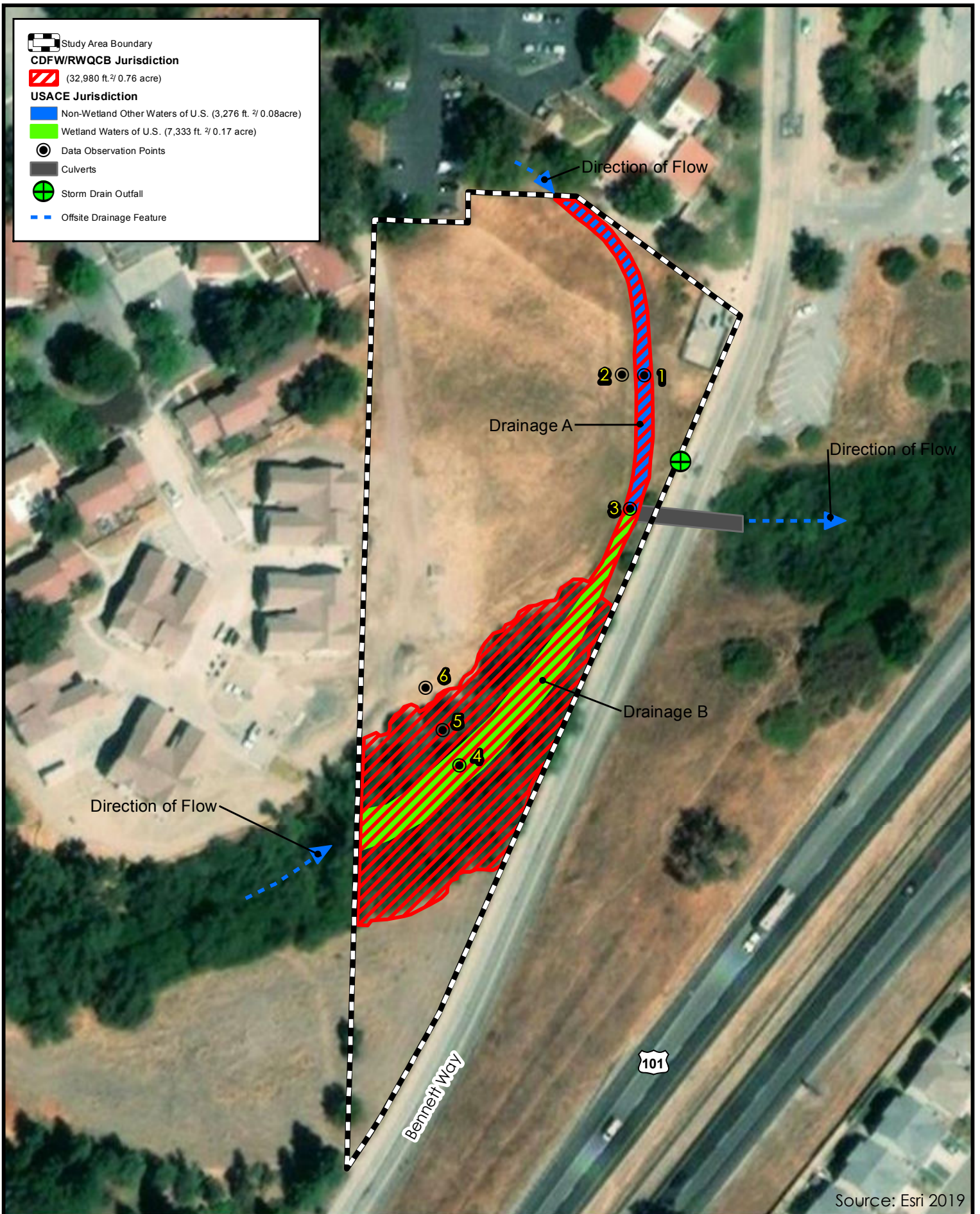
### 3.5.3 Wetland Determination

The observations at each of the six data points used in this investigation are summarized below. The locations of these points are shown on Figure 6, and the completed data forms are provided in Appendix D.

**Data Point 1** — Characterizes the bottom of the seasonally moist swale identified as Drainage A. This area had a small narrow defined channel of approximately three (3) feet wide, and consisted of an approximately 10-foot wide soft swale, that likely had channel morphology altered by frequent mowing. The portion of this channel upstream from the mowed area offsite had a defined channel with scour pools, since the channel morphology had not been altered as it had on the subject property. The dominant vegetation at this data point was Mediterranean barley and meadow barley, which indicated the presence of hydrophytic vegetation. The soil was shaly clay loam and had a color of 10YR3/2. No redoximorphic features or hydric soil indicators were observed, and hydric soils were not present. Secondary indicators of hydrology were observed, including drift deposits and drainage patterns. These consisted of leaves and trash that were accumulated on the upstream side of obstructions in the channel bottom, which showed evidence of flowing water. Because only two of the three wetland indicators were present, Drainage A was likely to be considered to be Non-wetland Other Waters of the U.S. This area would also be under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB.

**Data Point 2** — Upland location paired with Data Points 1 and 3, characterizing disturbed Non-native Grassland. No hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, or wetland hydrology were present.

**Data Point 3** — Located in the channel in front of the two 36-inch culverts that convey flow under Bennett Way, and at the confluence of Drainages A and B. The soil pit was located within the channel but outside of standing water. Vegetation consisted entirely of herb stratum, and dominant species were 100% wetland species, including meadow barley, rabbitsfoot grass, and tall flatsedge. An obligate species, watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) also was present along the channel. The species composition indicated that hydrophytic vegetation was present. The soil had a color of



10YR2/1, with redox features of 5YR4/6 and oxidized rhizospheres. These features indicated that hydric soils were present. There was open water in the soil pit below eight (8) inches and soil saturation from the surface to eight (8) inches down. Within the wetted portion of the channel, there were northern Pacific treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*) tadpoles, gilled snails (Gastropoda), water striders (Gerridae), and water fleas (*Daphnia* sp.). Therefore, wetland hydrology also was present. With the three criteria being met, the area was considered potentially a Wetland Waters of the U.S. and was approximately 10 feet wide. This area would also be under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB.

**Data Point 4** — Characterizes the Drainage B channel within the riparian forest. Flowing water that was approximately 10-feet wide had abutting/adjacent wetland vegetation. This area had a tree stratum in which red willow was dominant; a sapling/shrub stratum in which American dogwood and arroyo willow were dominant; and, an herb stratum in which beardless wild rye, common plantain, and watercress were dominant. In addition, an obligate species, water starwort, also was present in the wetted channel. Under the dominance test, 100% of the dominant plant species were hydrophytic. A soil pit was not used because hydric soils were presumed present based on flowing water, soil saturation and presence of hydrophytes. Evidence of hydrology included the presence of surface water and soil saturation, aquatic invertebrates, water marks, sediment deposits, and drift deposits. Potential Wetland Waters of the U.S. in this area were approximately 25 feet wide. This area would also be under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB.

**Data Point 5** — Located outside of the Drainage B wetland zone, but within the riparian corridor. This area had a tree stratum with coast live oak; a sapling/shrub stratum with poison oak and red willow; and, an herb stratum of California brome grass, ripgut brome, and poison hemlock. These species did not meet the criteria for hydrophytic vegetation under the dominance test or prevalence index. Soils had a color of 10YR3/2 and there were no hydric soil indicators. There was no evidence of hydrology in this area. This area did not meet the criteria for Waters of the U.S., but would be under the jurisdiction of CDFW and RWQCB.

**Data Point 6** — Characterizes the upland Non-native Grassland habitat adjacent to the riparian zone along Drainage B, paired with Data Points 4 and 5. No hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, or wetland hydrology were present.

#### 3.5.4 USACE Jurisdictional Boundaries

The onsite drainages have a hydrologic connection to the Salinas River, as described above in Section 3.5.1. Although these drainages do not appear to flow year-round and are non-navigable, there is a significant nexus with a traditional navigable water (e.g., Salinas River) and wetlands are present within and abutting to these tributaries. Based on our investigation, these classes of waters were determined to be subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

Potential Non-wetland Other Waters of the U.S. were present in the portion of Drainage A from the northern property line to the culvert under Bennett Way (Figure 6). The extent of this jurisdictional area is within the limit of the OHWM, and is characterized by Data Point 1.

Potential Wetland Waters of the U.S. were identified in the channel of Drainage B, from the point where the drainage enters the property from the southwest to the point that it exits the property through the two 36-inch culverts under Bennett Way (Figure 6). The extent of this jurisdictional area is within the limit of the OHWM. As exemplified by Data Point 4, this area met all three criteria (i.e., hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology) that determine the presence of a



federally regulated wetland.

Table 1 summarizes the areas considered potentially subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This area calculation is approximate, and has not been confirmed by USACE.

**Table 1. USACE Jurisdictional Areas**

<b>Waters of the U.S.</b>	<b>Total Area</b>
Wetland waters	7,333 square Feet/0.17 acre
Other, non-wetland waters	3,276 Square Feet/0.08 acre
<b>Total USACE Jurisdiction</b>	<b>10,609 Square Feet/0.24 acre</b>

### 3.5.5 *CDFW/RWQCB Jurisdictional Boundaries*

All Waters of the U.S., as described above under Section 3.5.4, also fall within the jurisdiction of the RWQCB under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and under CDFW jurisdiction pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 et seq. Additional areas extending to the outer extent of riparian vegetation also fall under CDFW/RWQCB regulatory authority. Table 2 summarizes the areas expected to be subject to CDFW/RWQCB jurisdiction.

**Table 2. CDFW/RWQCB Jurisdictional Area**

<b>Waters of the State</b>	<b>Total Area</b>
Drainage A (non-wetland swale)	3,276 Square Feet/0.08 acre
Drainage B (active channel)	7,333 Square Feet/0.17 acre
Drainage B riparian vegetation	22,371 Square Feet/0.51 acre
<b>Total CDFW/RWQCB Jurisdiction</b>	<b>32,980 Square Feet/0.76 acre</b>

### 3.5.6 *Discussion*

The above results are preliminary and were based on current agency methodologies and guidance. The area calculations would be subject to review by federal and state agencies as part of future permitting requirements should potential jurisdictional areas be affected by the proposed project. As we understand, the project will avoid the Riparian habitat and Drainage B, and a bridge would be constructed over and span Drainage A above the area potentially under jurisdiction by the three agencies. Should fill such as pilings or bridge footings be proposed within the stream channel, a 404 permit from USACE may be required. The extent of Clean Water Act jurisdiction described herein may be used to support the 404 permit application, if required. The bridge would require permitting from CDFW due to spanning the channel, and the RWQCB should be consulted. Because there would be no 404 permit from USACE, permitting through the 401 program from RWQCB would not be available but there could be Water Board authorization under Waste Discharge Requirements.

In addition, any alterations to the onsite drainages that may be required for stormwater runoff would also require permitting from the USACE, CDFW and RWQCB. Low Impact Development (LID) requirements for the project may be instituted by the County under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit (see Section 4.1 C). As we understand, these requirements may entail the construction of vegetated swales or basins outside of the onsite jurisdictional areas in order to increase stormwater runoff retention and infiltration. If any elements of the stormwater requirements occur within the potential jurisdictional areas, this work would require permitting. A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, a RWQCB Section 401 certification or Waste Discharge



Requirements, and a Section 404 permit from the USACE may be required.

#### **4.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED MITIGATION**

The following impact analysis and recommended mitigation measures are intended to help guide project planning efforts and support the CEQA review process. The impact discussion addresses the range of impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project. Direct effects (or impacts), as defined under CEQA, are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by a project, but occur at a different time or place. Cumulative effects are those that result from when the effects of the subject project combine with effects from other unrelated projects to compound environmental harm. Our understanding of the extent of proposed development focused next to adjacent housing, along with the observations of onsite conditions from the site visit and evaluation of special-status biological resources provided the basis for this analysis.

##### **4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects**

###### ***4.1.1 Adverse Effects on Candidate, Sensitive or Special-status Species***

Two rare plant species and eight special-status animal species have been observed in the site vicinity and were evaluated to determine their potential presence in the study area. No designated critical habitat occurs on the site, and no offsite critical habitat would be indirectly affected by the project. Frequent disturbance of the grassland area via mowing has maintained grasses to a low structural level and increased the percentage of non-native plant species and associated thatch development. This disturbance has likely eliminated or reduced the chance that rare plant species could occur in the Non-native Grassland habitat onsite. However, there is a slight possibility that the two annual rare plant species could occur onsite since they can tolerate some level of disturbance (i.e., grazing or mowing), depending on when those activities occur within the species' phenology (i.e., after flower and seed set vs. before seed set has occurred).

The disturbed grassland area, given its small size and proximity to existing urban development, does not appear to provide wildlife breeding habitat, or be suitable for supporting any other critical function for wildlife species. Several special-status wildlife species could use the Riparian or Wetland habitats in the portion of Drainage B onsite, and due to proximity, could potentially occur along the margin of the Non-native Grassland habitat periodically on a transitory basis. Additionally, mobile species that can forage in or over small patches of habitat that are surrounded by urban development may also occur sporadically. No significant effects of the project are expected on wildlife species that could only occur periodically since the development will be clustered on the grassy hillside adjacent to existing development and the Drainage B corridor will be left undisturbed.

Protected birds and raptors could potentially nest in forested areas adjacent to the project impact area, including individual oak and landscape trees outside of the drainage features. Depending on the time of year that construction takes place, disturbance from construction activities from February 1 through August 31 could potentially disrupt nesting behavior. The following impact statements and proposed mitigation measures are provided to reduce project related impacts to candidate, sensitive or special status species.

**Impact Bio-1. Construction of the project could potentially directly impact rare plant species. This is a potentially significant but mitigable impact.**

The Non-native Grassland habitat onsite where the project would be constructed has been regularly disturbed by mowing, and has a low potential to support rare plant species. As stated above, the site is not in pristine condition given the development on surrounding parcels and vegetation management that occurs onsite. However, there is a slight chance that San Luis Obispo owl's-clover and shining navarretia could grow and flower early in the spring before mowing is conducted, and these species may have been unidentifiable during the late spring survey. The following mitigation is required to ensure that impacts are below significance, but will ultimately be determined based upon the results of the focused rare plant surveys and the degree of any impacts.

*Mitigation Measure BIO-1a: Conduct preconstruction surveys for rare plants.* When final site plans for the proposed project are created, they should show all permanent and temporary disturbance areas. During the spring (April) prior to the initiation of construction, a qualified botanist shall conduct survey(s) of all impact areas and areas that would be affected, during the blooming period(s) of the rare plant species with potential to occur (see Appendix C). The surveys shall generally follow the protocols given in *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants* (USFWS 2000) and *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] 2009). If no rare plant species are detected during the surveys, no further mitigation is required. Any rare plant occurrences within the property shall be flagged or mapped for avoidance, if avoidance is feasible. If construction activities cannot avoid the rare plants, Mitigation Measure BIO-1b shall be implemented.

*Mitigation Measure BIO-1b: Conduct salvage and relocation of impacted rare plants, and implement a rare plant compensatory mitigation plan.* If project impacts cannot avoid rare plant areas, plant salvage from the disturbance area and relocation to appropriate habitat outside the development footprint shall occur. Salvage and relocation activities will include the collection of seed and other propagules as appropriate prior to grading activities. Seed shall be collected, cleaned and then hand broadcasted into areas of suitable habitat outside the development area, or incorporated into the native erosion control seed mix described in Table 3 under Mitigation Measure BIO-4. Any plants salvaged shall be planted in similar habitat as close to the collection site as possible.

A rare plant compensatory mitigation plan shall be developed to ensure no net loss of special-status plant species from the project site. The mitigation plan shall be developed by a qualified botanist/restoration ecologist in consultation with the County and CDFW, as appropriate. The special-status plant species mitigation program shall at a minimum include the following:

1. The overall goals and measurable objectives for no net loss of special-status plant species;
2. Identification of specific mitigation areas of suitable size, with appropriate site conditions, and in close proximity to the impact area;
3. Specific habitat management concepts to be implemented during the establishment period (i.e., habitat assessments for the period immediately following construction; annual population surveys and identification of monitoring reference sites; and a seasonally-timed weed abatement program);
4. Success criteria based on the goals and measurable objectives to ensure that a viable population(s) is established on the project site; and

5. Reporting requirements to ensure consistent data collection and reporting methods used by monitoring personnel.

Monitoring should occur annually for five years to ensure successful establishment of all planted propagules or salvaged plants and no net loss of the species. In the case of annual plants, it may be difficult to determine if there has been a net loss or gain of a population during the monitoring period due to interannual variability. Therefore, reference sites should be used to the extent possible to extrapolate trends in species' population dynamics. An adaptive management program should also be included to address both foreseen and unforeseen circumstances relating to the preservation and mitigation programs. The plan should include remedial measures to address any negative impacts to the special-status plant species and their habitats (i.e., removal of weeds, additional seeding/planting efforts) if the species or its habitat is suffering a net loss at the time of the follow-up surveys.

Implementation of the mitigation measures described above would reduce project effects on rare plant species to a level below significance.

**Impact Bio-2. The project is expected to have a very low probability of directly or indirectly affecting special-status wildlife species. This is a less than significant impact, and no mitigation is required.**

No wildlife species are expected to inhabit the disturbed Non-native Grassland habitat on a regular basis or use the area for any key life history functions. Seven out of the eight species with potential to occur are mobile species, and individuals could readily move away to avoid direct effects during construction activities. The onsite drainages do not support sufficient aquatic habitat for species such as the California red-legged frog, and no recorded occurrences of this species are present in the project vicinity. The only species that is not especially mobile is the northern California legless lizard, and it could occur only in the areas of Non-native Grassland near the boundary with the Riparian habitat (i.e., roughly 10-20 feet along the riparian canopy). Because project impact areas will be setback away from the edge of riparian, and the lizard is not expected to occur very far out into the dry and sparsely vegetation grassland habitat, no direct effects of construction are expected to occur on this species.

No appropriate breeding habitat for any of the special-status bird species with potential to occur on the site is present in project impact areas, and no roosting habitat is present for special-status bats. Avian and bat species would only occur in the grassland habitats periodically while foraging or moving through the area. Construction activities are not expected to directly affect individuals of these mobile species. Loss of disturbed Non-native Grassland habitat, which is surrounded by urban development, would not be considered significant from a biological resources perspective because grassland habitats of much better quality are common in the region. The project is expected to have a less than significant impact on special-status wildlife species, but could potentially affect nesting birds if they are present in close proximity to the site. Therefore, the following impact statement and subsequent mitigation measures are provided.

**Impact Bio-3. Construction activities could potentially directly impact nesting of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or California Fish and Game Code. This is a potentially significant but mitigable impact.**

Nesting birds and raptors that are protected under the MBTA and/or California Fish and Game Code could nest in the Riparian habitat or Ornamental trees surrounding the project impact area. If

construction activities took place during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), nesting behavior could be disrupted and construction disturbance could cause adults to abandon nests containing eggs or young. To reduce potential project impacts to a level below significance, Mitigation Measures BIO-3a and -3b are required.

***Mitigation Measure BIO-3a:** If possible, conduct the initiation of construction activities outside of the nesting season.* All initial site disturbance should be limited to the time period between September 1 and January 31, if feasible. If initial site disturbance such as vegetation removal, grading, and road construction cannot be conducted during this time period, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3b is required.

***Mitigation Measure BIO-3b:** Conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey.* If it is not possible to schedule the initiation of construction between September 1 and January 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds within 250 feet of project impact areas. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within seven days before the initiation of construction activities in any given area of the project site, and repeated prior to start of construction in a new area of the site. During this survey, the qualified biologist shall inspect all potential nest substrates in the impact and buffer areas, and any nests identified will be monitored to determine if they are active. If no active nests are found, construction may proceed. If an active nest is found within 50 feet (250 feet for raptors) of the construction area, the biologist, in consultation with CDFW, shall determine the extent of a buffer to be established around the nest. The buffer will be delineated with flagging, and no work shall take place within the buffer area until the young have left the nest, as determined by the qualified biologist.

Implementation of the mitigation measures described above would reduce project effects on nesting birds to a level below significance.

#### 4.1.2 Adverse Effects on Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Communities

The Riparian habitat within the onsite portion of Drainage B is considered to be a sensitive natural community by CDFW, and corresponds to the Red Willow Thickets association, which has a State Rarity Rank of S3 (CDFW 2019b). The Wetland habitat within the Riparian zone that corresponds to the *Leymus triticoides* alliance has a State Rarity Rank of S3 (CDFW 2019b). It is our understanding through review of preliminary plans that the project will be designed to avoid the Riparian habitat, and that permanent disturbance areas will be setback from the edge of this habitat. Therefore, there would be no direct effects of the project on this community.

Wetland habitat in Drainage A corresponds to the Meadow Barley Patches association, which has a State Rarity Rank of S2 (CDFW 2019b). While this area is proposed to be avoided during construction of the project, an entrance road from Bennett Way will need to cross this feature. The housing and other infrastructure elements of the project would be setback from the edge of the wetland habitat in Drainage A. No final site plan was available for review during the preparation of this report, but our understanding based on review of draft plans and discussions with the project team is that the access road from Bennett Way will either use a bridge structure with abutments or a hydro-arch type culvert with footings placed outside of the regulated wetland habitat. The implementation of these design measures would avoid direct effects to this sensitive plant community, but indirect or potentially temporary impacts could occur during construction.

Indirect effects of the project could include erosion and sedimentation from surface runoff over disturbed soils within the impact area migrating downhill into the Riparian and Wetland habitats.

Erosion and sedimentation control measures and other construction Best Management Practices (BMPs). are required as described below under Section 4.1.3) Federally Protected Wetlands, to reduce potential project effects to a less than significant level. While direct impacts are not expected to Drainage A and its associated wetland vegetation, construction of the entrance driveway could result in temporary impacts to this feature, which is discussed further in Section 4.1.3 below.

#### *4.1.3 Federally Protected Wetlands*

As described above in Section 3.5 and shown on Figure 6, federally protected non-wetland and wetland waters of the United States are present along Drainages A and B. It is our understanding that the permanent disturbance areas associated with the housing project would be setback from the onsite drainage features and the respective riparian and wetland habitats. Therefore, there would be no direct effects on to federally protected wetlands for the housing project. The proposed access road from Bennett Way is expected to span the channel of Drainage A and remain outside of the regulatory boundary shown on Figure 6. If the span is utilized, construction of the entrance driveway would not require permitting from USACE due to construction activities remaining outside of the stream channel and no placement of fill or dredge material within a potential waters of the U.S. Even though the bridge or soft-bottom culvert would have foundations located outside the regulated creek zone, it would still require permitting from CDFW due to construction occurring over the channel. In addition, the RWQCB should be consulted to determine if permitting and review is required pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. Because the construction of a bridge or soft-bottomed culvert would not trigger Clean Water Act Section 404 permitting from USACE, no permitting nexus with the Water Board would be available through the Section 401 program. Depending on the final construction design, the Water Board could require authorization under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). If a secondary access road is constructed across the property to the northwest connecting to Las Tablas Road (which has been discussed but is not part of the current conceptual site plan), a survey shall be conducted to determine jurisdictional limits of the drainage in this area, and final project plans shall include the appropriate setback for this area to avoid impacts, both direct and indirect, unless the appropriate permitting from the USACE, RWQCB and CDFW are acquired.

County requirements for LID under Central Coast Water Board Resolution R3-2013-0032 are intended to control urban runoff pollution by requiring a combination of onsite source control and BMPs before runoff enters the storm sewer system (County 2017). The site design requirements include directing runoff into vegetated basins where water would be retained for infiltration, and prescribed vegetative planting in the basins would provide water quality benefits through biofiltration. Stormwater basins would be constructed outside of the jurisdictional wetlands and riparian areas on the site. Based on initial discussions with the project team, the basins would be engineered so that after meeting a precipitation threshold, the basins would overspill and sheet flow into the onsite drainages. As long as maximum discharges do not exceed a prescribed threshold and the LID features are constructed entirely outside of the jurisdictional areas, no permits from USACE, CDFW or RWQCB are anticipated. A Stormwater Control Plan Application is expected to accompany the application for the County building permit, which would detail the design plan and engineering calculations for the stormwater basins and discharges. Should any direct channel or outfall from the basins be required to “tie in” with the onsite drainage features, review and permitting from the USACE, CDFW and RWQCB would be required.

If permits are obtained from regulatory agencies for the construction of the access driveway or any stormwater basin construction, those permits are expected to include measures to protect the drainages from placement of fill material as well as potential for erosion and sedimentation. The

following impact statement and associated mitigation measures are provided for CEQA compliance in addition to any permit requirements that may be developed for the entrance driveway span over Drainage A, as well as to reduce project indirect effects from erosion and sedimentation that could occur to these protected wetland and stream habitats during the course of project construction.

**Impact Bio-4. Construction of the project's entrance driveway could affect jurisdictional stream and wetland habitats through excavation or placement of fill materials. Stormwater runoff if not properly contained could also result in pollutants and sediment entering the stream corridors during construction. This is a potentially significant but mitigable impact.**

Construction of the entrance driveway could affect jurisdictional stream habitat through the placement of fill materials in the mapped regulatory boundaries as shown on Figure 6. Entrance driveway construction would occur over Drainage A, which is a small ephemeral feature that appears to only contain flowing water during or directly following rain events. As such, flowing or ponded water is not expected to be present when construction is planned to occur during the spring, summer or fall. If project plans change, and direct impacts to the stream channel occur, then permitting and compensatory mitigation is expected to be required by the regulatory agencies (USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW) for all impacts and loss of habitat within their respective jurisdictional areas. The following mitigation would be required to reduce project-related impacts to a less than significant level.

*Mitigation Measure Bio-4a: Consult with applicable regulatory agencies and acquire necessary permits.*

1. Once a final site plan is available, a qualified biologist will review the plan to determine if a Section 404 Permit from USACE, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from RWQCB, and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW are required. If a bridge span or soft-bottomed culvert is proposed that does not place fill material within the limits of USACE jurisdiction shown on Figure 6, then a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the USACE and subsequent Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB will not be required. The CDFW should be notified through the submittal of a Streambed Alteration Agreement application, and RWQCB should be consulted to determine if the project should be enrolled in the Waste Discharge Requirements program.
2. Once a final site plan is available, impact areas to stream habitat(s) should be calculated for the appropriate permitting. The applicant should prepare a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) to mitigate impacts to stream habitat associated and associated vegetation for the entrance driveway crossing over Drainage A. The HMMP should be consistent with federal and state regulatory requirements and county policies. It is anticipated that the HMMP would be submitted with permit applications for agency approval. The applicant would then be required to implement the HMMP as necessary during construction and immediately following project completion for an estimated period of potentially five years.

Based on the no-net-loss policy developed for federal wetland habitat, impacts to waters of the U.S., and wetland/riparian habitat, must be restored onsite at a minimum 1:1 basis (acres of habitat restored to acres of habitat lost). As recommended, the project should incorporate biotechnical erosion controls and other habitat restoration techniques to improve, or at the least, maintain the existing habitat function and value in the study area. In some instances, regulatory agencies may require higher mitigation ratios to ensure that no-net-loss of the

resource is attained. Please note that higher ratios are frequently requested by the regulatory agencies as part of their permit process. Based on field observations to date, there appears to be potential onsite to meet a minimum 2:1 basis for habitat restoration and enhancement.

Construction of the proposed project would involve site grading that would produce unstable bare soils that potentially could erode into the sensitive habitats associated with drainages onsite or downstream of the site if substantial precipitation caused runoff before these areas are stabilized. Sedimentation in these areas would affect water quality through increased turbidity, fill in pools or cause lateral spread of channels, and cover instream vegetation and other aquatic life. Sedimentation is considered to be a type of pollutant in aquatic systems. In addition, toxic substances from construction equipment such as oil, gas, diesel, and hydraulic fluid could leak or be spilled and wash into natural drainage systems. Large spills of construction materials, such as wet concrete, could also affect aquatic and wetland habitats. Any of these events potentially could have a significant effect on sensitive Riparian and Wetland habitats, and appropriate BMPs shall be employed to bring potential project effects to a level below significance, as described below.

***Mitigation Measure BIO-4b:** Install appropriate erosion and sediment controls and revegetate graded areas.* The following erosion and sedimentation control methods are required to be implemented, in addition to any BMPs required by the agencies.

1. If possible, the potential for erosion and sedimentation shall be minimized by scheduling construction to occur outside of the rainy season, which is typically defined from October 15 through April 15.
2. To minimize disturbance, all vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas.
3. A Sediment and Erosion Control Plan shall be prepared that specifically seeks to protect the Wetland and Riparian habitats on the property and in downstream areas. All project plans should show the sedimentation and erosion control measures to be installed per the engineer's requirements.
4. Spill kits shall be maintained on the site, and a Spill Response Plan shall be in place.
5. No vehicles or equipment shall be refueled within 25 feet of Wetland and Riparian areas unless a bermed and lined refueling area is constructed. No vehicles or construction equipment shall be stored overnight within 100 feet of these areas unless drip pans or ground covers are used. All equipment and vehicles should be checked and maintained on a daily basis to ensure proper operation and to avoid potential leaks or spills. Construction staging areas should attain zero discharge of stormwater runoff into these habitats.
6. No concrete washout shall be conducted on the site outside of an appropriate containment system. Washing of equipment, tools, etc. should not be allowed in any location where the tainted water could enter onsite drainages.
7. The use of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, or biocides shall be in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations. All uses of such compounds shall observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other state and federal legislation.
8. All project-related spills of hazardous materials within or adjacent to the project site should be cleaned up immediately.
9. All areas with soil disturbance shall have appropriate erosion controls and other

stormwater protection BMPs installed to prevent erosion potential. Silt fencing, erosion control blankets, straw bales, sand bags, fiber rolls and/or other types of materials shall be prescribed in the plan to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Biotechnical approaches using native vegetation shall be used as feasible.

10. Areas with disturbed soils shall be restored under the direction of a qualified restoration ecologist. Methods may include recontouring graded areas to blend in with existing natural contours, covering the areas with salvaged topsoil containing native seedbank from the site, and/or applying the native seed mix described in Table 3 to the graded areas through either direct hand seeding or hydroseeding methods. Seeding with the native erosion control seed mix should be provided on all disturbed soil areas prior to the onset of the rainy season (October 15).

**Table 3. Native Erosion Control Seed Mix**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Application Rate (lbs./acre)</b>
<i>Bromus carinatus</i> (California brome)	5
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i> (meadow barley)	10
<i>Trifolium wildenovii</i> (tomcat clover)	5
<i>Vulpia microstachys</i> (six weeks fescue)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

Implementation of the mitigation measures described above would reduce project effects on federally protected wetlands, as well as riparian areas and sensitive plant communities, to a level below significance.

#### 4.1.4 Interference with Movement of Native Fish or Wildlife, Wildlife Corridors, and Wildlife Nursery Sites

The proposed project would not affect the movement of native fish because all work will be conducted outside of stream channels, and the onsite drainages are too ephemeral to support fish. No equipment or materials will enter or be placed in the channel that could affect fish downstream.

The small area of grassland habitat where the project would be located is surrounded on all sides by existing suburban development or development projects that are currently being constructed. Highway 101 to the east of the site is likely a barrier to the movement of many wildlife species. Because of the developed nature of the area surrounding the site, there is low potential that it could be used as a wildlife. The Riparian corridor that runs through the property is approximately one-third mile long and is surrounded by suburban development that has constricted and fragmented this habitat. Nevertheless, it could be used as a stepping stone by some Riparian species it could be used as a source of freshwater. In fact, black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) were seen on the site during the survey and could use this small patch of undeveloped habitat for movement, although the linkage between this area and other habitats is unclear. Riparian birds could also use this area as a stopover point to suitable habitat along the Salinas River, and it likely serves as a habitat patch for amphibians and reptiles although surrounding development isolates it from other areas. The proposed project does not affect the Riparian habitat, and would not substantially isolate it further from other habitat patches. Therefore, there would be no impact of the project on wildlife corridors or movement.

The disturbed Non-native Grassland habitat in the project impact area is not of sufficient quality or



structure to be used as a wildlife nursery site. Development in this area is not expected to affect wildlife use of the Riparian area because this habitat patch is already surrounded by urban development, and any species that currently breed in this area would be tolerant of some level of human disturbance. Therefore, there would be no impact of the project on wildlife nursery sites.

Because there would be no project impacts on the movement of native fish or wildlife, wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites, no mitigation is required.

#### 4.1.5 Conflicts with Local Policies or Ordinances, Such as Tree Preservation

The project as currently proposed does not involve the removal of trees, as all project impact areas are outside of wooded areas. However, a secondary access road has been discussed and would run through the property to the northwest and connect to Las Tablas Road. The habitat in this area is mixed oak woodland, comprised of valley oaks, planted Monterey pines, and ornamental species of pines. Some trees would be removed if the road were to be constructed in this location. However, it is highly unlikely that the proposed work would fall under the permitting requirements of the County's Oak Woodland Ordinance (Chapter 22.58, effective May 11, 2017) due to the small size of the potential impact area. This ordinance prohibits clear-cutting of more than one acre of contiguous trees within an oak woodland and on slopes  $\geq 30$  percent, without an exemption or permit. This ordinance does not apply to the removal of individual oak trees (except for Heritage oaks), woodland thinning, or tree trimming, which can be conducted without a permit (County 2018). No Heritage Oak trees were observed during the survey, and individual trees that would be cut would represent far less than one acre of oak woodland. Still, removal of any oak tree six inches or greater in diameter at breast height would require mitigation. The following impact statement and subsequent mitigation would be required to reduce project related impacts to native oak trees should any require removal or construction activities encroach within the drip line or require excessive trimming (i.e., greater than 25% of the total canopy).

**Impact Bio-5. Construction of the project may require the removal of one or more native oak trees. Construction activities also have the potential to impact additional oak trees through grading under the drip line or excessive trimming. *This is considered to be a potentially significant impact that can be reduced to less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation.***

Based on our understanding of the proposed project, tree removal does not appear to be required. Should access be required from Las Tablas Road, native oak tree removal, trimming, and encroachment into oak tree critical root zones, which are typically 1.5 times the distance from the tree's dripline to the tree's trunk, may be required. As such, the following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce project-related impacts to oak trees:

1. All trees within 25 feet of the limits of disturbance shall have protective measures put in place to ensure they remain uninjured during construction. This involves establishing a buffer in which no construction activities would be permitted within each tree's critical root zone, as defined above. If that distance is not feasible, then the buffer shall be the outer limits of the tree canopy/dripline.
2. Construction fencing or sufficient staking should delineate the no-disturbance buffer for each oak tree, and be maintained to ensure that it remains throughout the entire construction period. The limits of the buffer zones shall be shown on all construction plans.

3. If grading must encroach within the dripline of protected trees, the activity should be minimized as much as possible.
4. The project biologist shall oversee oak tree removal and record numbers of trees impacted or removed to meet requirements in the compensatory mitigation program discussed below.
5. Any irrigation for new landscaping should avoid over-watering existing oak trees, which could lead to fungal infections that could cause mortality of the trees.
6. All work crews shall receive a Worker Education Training program covering the importance of protecting oak trees onsite and the measures implemented to avoid and minimize impacts on oak trees.

If oak trees are removed or impacted through excessive trimming, an oak tree mitigation plan shall be prepared. The plan shall follow current County guidelines and shall provide the methods and techniques to be used in the field to mitigate removed trees at a 4:1 ratio (i.e., 4 trees planted for every tree removed). Replacement trees shall be the same species removed and planted in open space areas that will not be affected by future development. For trees that are indirectly impacted through extensive trimming (i.e., over 25% of the canopy), a mitigation ratio of 2:1 shall be employed to reduce impacts. All replacement trees shall be maintained and monitored for a minimum of seven (7) years to ensure successful establishment. If replacement trees die or do not successfully establish, then additional trees will be installed and monitored accordingly to meet this requirement. An as-built planting plan shall be prepared that is used to track the replacement trees, and annual reports prepared by a qualified individual and submitted to the County by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year following planting. It may also be possible to pay an in-lieu mitigation fee for trees impacted or removed. Working with the County, it may be possible to pay an estimated fee of \$485 for each tree impacted and \$970 for each tree removed.

Incorporation of the above mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to oak trees to a less than significant level.

#### *4.1.6 Conflicts with Local, Regional or State Conservation Plans*

No regional or state conservation plans have been prepared for the area in which the project is located. The project site falls within the area covered by the Templeton Community Plan (County 2014), which is a portion of Part III of the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the County General Plan. The property has not been identified to contain any of the combining designations for sensitive biological resources detailed in the plan, such as sensitive resource areas, coastal streams, riparian vegetation, terrestrial habitat or wetland. Although some of these elements do in fact occur on the property, they have not been identified by the County as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat. In addition, mitigation is prescribed herein to reduce effects on these resources to a level below significance.

Because there would be no conflicts with local, regional or state conservation plans, no mitigation is required.

## **4.2 Cumulative Effects**

The proposed project has very little chance for impacts on biological resources because it is planned for a disturbed site that is surrounded by suburban development. The project will be

designed to avoid the Wetland and Riparian sensitive habitats on the site, and mitigation measures have been detailed herein that will ensure these features are not impacted during construction activities. Because these sensitive habitat areas would in fact be preserved as a result of the project, there could be positive cumulative effects in the context of the site's importance in the overall area.

## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Project impacts are planned to be restricted to a disturbed Non-native Grassland area that has little value as wildlife habitat and a low potential to support rare plant species due to frequent mowing in the past. The property has Riparian and Wetland habitats that are planned to be avoided during the project. Best Management Practices have been prescribed herein to prevent impacts to these habitats during construction activities, including erosion and sedimentation control measures, prevention or cleanup of hazardous spills, and revegetation of bare soils with native plant species. The Wetland habitat in Drainage A is of little habitat value due to having been mowed in the past and its ephemeral nature. The project involves constructing a bridge or soft bottom type culvert across this wetland, which will stay out of the channel, to provide access to Bennett Way. Permitting from USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is not anticipated if the entrance road spans Drainage A. CDFW notification through the submittal of a Streambed Alteration Agreement application will be needed for any bridge or culvert construction. As proposed, the wetland would remain unchanged by construction of the project. The Riparian area surrounding Drainage B represents a patch of wildlife habitat and source of water that has some value to wildlife, although it is fragmented from other natural areas and would likely only be used by transient and mobile species. The Riparian habitat is to remain unchanged by the project. LID requirements by the County for stormwater controls would be designed to ensure that the Wetland and Riparian habitats onsite, as well as aquatic resources downstream, would receive sufficient water post-construction while minimizing scouring flows, flood risk and sedimentation.

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## **APPENDIX A**

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### **List of Plants and Animals Observed During the Site Visit**



### Appendix B – List of Plants and Animals Observed Onsite During the Site Visits

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Plants</b>	
<i>Acmispon wrangelianus</i>	Chilean trefoil
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	Slender wild oat
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote brush
<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	Black mustard
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California brome
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Ripgut brome
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> *	Soft chess
<i>Callitriche</i> sp.	Water starwort
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> *	Italian thistle
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *	Yellow starthistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i> *	Poison hemlock
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> *	Field bindweed
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	American dogwood
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Tall flatsedge
<i>Elymus triticoides</i>	Beardless wild rye
<i>Epilobium brachycarpum</i>	Willow herb
<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Slender willow herb
<i>Eschscholtzia californica</i>	California poppy
<i>Festuca perennis</i> *	Italian rye grass
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose grass
<i>Geranium carolinianum</i>	Carolina geranium
<i>Hedera helix</i> *	English ivy
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> *	Bristly ox-tongue
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	Summer mustard
<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	Meadow barley
<i>Hordeum marinum</i> ssp. <i>gussoneanum</i> *	Mediterranean barley
<i>Hordeum murinum</i> ssp. <i>leporinum</i> *	Hare barley
<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	Goldfields
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> *	Scarlet pimpernel
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> *	California burclover
<i>Melilotus indicus</i> *	Annual yellow sweetclover
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Plantago major</i> *	Common plantain
<i>Pinus radiata</i> *#	Monterey pine
<i>Pinus</i> sp. *#	Pine
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Western sycamore
<i>Poa annua</i> *	Annual blue grass
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> *	Rabbitsfoot grass
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	Curly dock
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red willow
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow
<i>Silybum marianum</i> *	Milk thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i> *	Spiny sowthistle
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Vicia villosa</i> *	Hairy vetch
<b>Animals</b>	
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered hawk
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House finch
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
<i>Columba livia</i> *	Rock pigeon
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Daphnia</i> sp.	Water flea
Gastropoda	Gilled snail
Gerridae	Water strider
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Acorn woodpecker
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow
<i>Neotoma fuscipes</i>	Dusky-footed woodrat
<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Mourning cloak butterfly
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Black-tailed deer
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>	California ground squirrel
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	Northern Pacific treefrog
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black phoebe
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western bluebird
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> *	Eurasian collared-dove
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove

\*Non-native species

#Planted species

## **APPENDIX B**

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### **Photo Plate**



**Appendix B. Photo Plate**

**Photo 1.** View from the central western edge of the property looking northeast across Non-native Grassland habitat that has been frequently disturbed. Drainage A is in the distance and the culverts under Bennett way can be seen in the far right.



**Photo 2.** View from the center of the property looking north.





**Photo 3.** View from the western central edge of the property looking south. The Riparian habitat along Drainage B can be seen in the background.



**Photo 4.** View from the central portion of Drainage A looking south. Wetland habitat is present in the gentle swale and has been mowed. The shovel marks the location of the wetland assessment Data Point 1. This area was determined to be Non-wetland Other Waters of the U.S. due to lack of hydric soils. Jurisdictional width is approximately 10 feet.





**Photo 5.** View from the central portion of Drainage A and Data Point 1 looking north. An unmowed portion of the drainage is offsite and in the background. Wetland habitat corresponds to Meadow Barley Patches (Sawyer et al. 2009).



**Photo 6.** The location of the shovel indicates Data Point 3, which was determined to be Wetland Waters of the U.S. This point marks the confluence of Drainages A and B, which drain into these culverts under Bennett Way to the east. Flowing water was present in Drainage B.





**Photo 7.** Drainage B between the culvert under Bennett Way and the Riparian habitat, seen in the distance, looking southwest. This area was determined to be Wetland Waters of the U.S. and jurisdictional width is approximately 10 feet wide.



**Photo 8.** Wetland habitat along the Drainage B channel within the Riparian habitat. This community corresponds to the *Leymus triticoides* alliance (Sawyer et al. 2009), and was determined to be Wetland Waters of the U.S.





**Photo 9.** Wetland habitat within the Drainage B channel in the Riparian habitat at the location of Data Point 4. This area was determined to be Wetland Waters of the U.S. and the jurisdictional width was approximately 25 feet.



**Photo 10.** Riparian habitat along Drainage B consisted of dense willow scrub/forest along a channel with flowing water.





**Photo 11.** View from the Ruderal/Developed sidewalk along Bennett Way looking west across the southern tip of the property. Shown is Non-native Grassland habitat, with two Ornamental pine (*Pinus* sp.) trees, and the Riparian habitat along Drainage B in the distance.



**Photo 12.** Northerly view of site abutting Bennett Way. Riparian habitat along Drainage B is overhanging the sidewalk.



## **APPENDIX C**

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### **Special-status Biological Resources Summary**



### Appendix C. Special-status Biological Resources Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CRPR	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
PLANTS						
Eastwood's larkspur	<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>eastwoodiae</i>	—	—	1B.2	Perennial herb; chaparral, valley & foothill grassland generally in serpentine soils; 75-500 meters in elevation; blooms February to March.	<b>Not expected.</b> No suitable soils are present, and the only record in the vicinity is imprecise and from 1956; site is outside of the species' local distribution.
La Panza mariposa lily	<i>Calochortus simulans</i>	—	—	1B.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb; chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland on sandy and often granitic soils and sometimes on serpentine; 325-1150 meters in elevation; blooms April through June.	<b>Not expected.</b> The site is slightly outside the local and elevational range of the species, frequent disturbance would preclude this species, and the site survey was conducted when the species was blooming in the area and was not seen.
Lemmon's jewelflower	<i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland; ranges from 80 to 1,220 meters in elevation; blooms March to May.	<b>Not expected.</b> Grassland habitat onsite has been significantly disturbed and there are no recent records nearby; site is outside the species' current local distribution.
Mesa horkelia	<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	—	—	1B.1	Perennial herb; chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; sandy or gravelly soils; 70- 810 meters elevation; blooms February to September.	<b>Not expected.</b> No suitable habitat or soils are present, and this perennial species would be eliminated by frequent mowing.
Most beautiful jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus albidus</i> ssp. <i>peramoenus</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley & foothill grassland in serpentine soils; 94-1000 meters in elevation; blooms March to October.	<b>Not expected.</b> No suitable soils are present and the only record from within 5 miles is imprecise and from 1956.
San Luis Obispo owl's-clover	<i>Castilleja densiflora</i> var. <i>obispoensis</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; meadows, seeps, and valley and foothill grassland sometimes on serpentine; 10 to 400 meters in elevation; blooms March to May.	<b>Potential.</b> Suitable mesic Grassland habitat is present, although it is frequently disturbed by mowing there is a chance this annual species could occur depending on the seasonality of the mowing regime. There is a recent record east of Atascadero.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CRPR	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
Santa Lucia dwarf rush	<i>Juncus luciensis</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and vernal pools; ranges from 300 to 2,040 meters in elevation; blooms April to July.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable mesic habitat is present, but the site is slightly outside the elevational range of the species, and the only nearby record is from 1958 and the locality is imprecise.
Santa Margarita manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos pilosula</i>	—	—	1B.2	Evergreen perennial shrub; occurs in closed-cone coniferous forests, broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, and chaparral on shale, decomposed granite or sandstone; ranges from 170 to 1100 meters in elevation; blooms December to May.	<b>Not expected.</b> No suitable habitat is present and the site is outside of the species' local distribution.
Shining navarretia	<i>Navarretia nigelliformis</i> ssp. <i>radians</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools sometimes in clay; 65-1000 meters in elevation; blooms March to July.	<b>Potential.</b> Suitable soils and habitat are present, and there are numerous records in the vicinity.
Yellow-flowered eriastrum	<i>Eriastrum luteum</i>	—	—	1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland in sandy or gravelly soils; ranges from 240 to 1000 meters in elevation; blooms May to June.	<b>Not expected.</b> No suitable habitat is present and the only record within 5 miles is an imprecise locality from 1950; site is outside the species' current distribution.

\*E = Endangered; T = Threatened; '—' = no status; CRPR: Rank 1B – Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; Rank 2A – Presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere; Rank 2B – Rare or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; Rank 4 – Limited distribution (Watch List). Sources: California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019a); Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018a); Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (California Native Plant Society 2019); Information on Wild California Plants for Conservation, Education, and Appreciation (Calflora 2019).

SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES	
Central Coast Arroyo Willow Scrub or Forest — State Rarity Rank S3	<b>Present.</b> This community is present in the Riparian habitat onsite, but is outside of project impact areas.
Coastal Valley and Freshwater Marsh — State Rarity Rank S2 and S3	<b>Present.</b> Wetland habitat onsite would be considered to be a sensitive natural community and the plant species composition in Drainages A and B where there is surrounding grassland has a State Rarity Rank of S2, and Wetland habitat in Drainage B where there is surrounding Riparian has a State Rarity Rank of S3.
Valley Needlegrass Grassland — State Rarity Rank S4	<b>Absent.</b> No purple needlegrass ( <i>Stipa pulchra</i> ), which is the primary species in this community, was found in Grassland habitat onsite.
Valley Oak Woodland — State Rarity Rank S2	<b>Absent.</b> No valley oaks are present on the subject property, but this species is present mixed with pines offsite to the northwest where an alternative access has been proposed. However, this area is disturbed and the pines are non-native and planted; therefore, this area is unlikely to be considered a valley oak woodland.

Source: California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019a).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
INVERTEBRATES						
Atascadero June beetle	<i>Polyphylla nubila</i>	—	—	—	Sandy habitats in annual grassland habitat with blue elderberry.	<b>Not expected.</b> Soils were not sandy and no blue elderberry was present on the property.
California linderiella	<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	—	—	—	Seasonal pools or vernal pools in grasslands or in sandstone depressions. Can occur in very small pools and are heat tolerant.	<b>Not expected.</b> No topographic depressions capable of holding water are present on this sloping site, and species does not occur in flowing water.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
Crotch bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	—	—	—	Inhabits grasslands and scrub, especially hot and dry areas. It nests underground. Food plants include milkweed, lupine, phacelia, sage, clarkia, poppy, and buckwheat.	<b>Not expected.</b> No potential food plants were seen in the disturbed Non-native Grassland habitat onsite. Little information available about local distribution - most recent record is from 1968.
Lompoc grasshopper	<i>Trimerotropis occulens</i>	—	—	—	Associated with pale rocky or gravelly soils.	<b>Not expected.</b> Although potentially suitable soils are present, the only record in the area is from 1909 and has an imprecise locality. Generally found outside of this area. Low potential to occur onsite.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T	—	—	Endemic to vernal pools in grasslands of central coast mountains and valleys; inhabits small clear-water depressions, pools and swales lacking flow. Needs standing water for at least 16 days to complete its lifecycle.	<b>Not expected.</b> No topographic depressions capable of holding water are present on this sloping site, and species does not occur in flowing water.
<b>FISH</b>						
South-central California coast DPS steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 9	T	—	—	Adults spawn in freshwater streams with clear, well-oxygenated, cool water and clean gravel substrate. Also require instream cover (branches, logs) and streamside vegetation. Juveniles rear in freshwater reaches or lagoons before going to the ocean to mature, and then return to freshwater to reproduce.	<b>Not expected.</b> Onsite drainages have insufficient water depth and hydroperiod to support this species.
<b>AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES</b>						
Blainville's (=coast) horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	—	—	SSC	Grasslands, sandy washes, coastal scrub, chaparral, coniferous forest and woodlands with patches of open areas for sunning and bushes for cover. Often with loose sandy soils for burial. Preys on native species of ants and other small invertebrates.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat is present in Grassland areas onsite, but there is low probability this species would occur because the site is surrounded by urban development. Argentine ants, prolific in developed areas, displace native ants required by the lizards.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	T	—	SSC	Forages and breeds in streams with deep slow-moving pools, stock ponds, reservoirs, springs, lagoons, and marshes; usually with emergent or riparian vegetation but also found at sites lacking vegetation. Uses riparian and various upland habitats in winter and for dispersal.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Marginally suitable habitat for juveniles is present in Drainage B, but there is insufficient water depth to support adults. Could occur on a transient basis in Riparian habitat onsite if suitable aquatic sites were nearby, but no such sites were seen on aerial imagery and urban development may be a barrier to movement.
Coast Range newt	<i>Taricha torosa</i>	—	—	SSC	Primarily terrestrial in forests, oak woodlands, chaparral, and rolling grassland. Breeds in ponds, reservoirs and pools of clear streams with rocky substrates and cascades.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Drainage B has low quality habitat due to insufficient water depth and lack of pools. Could occur on a transient basis in Riparian habitat onsite if suitable aquatic sites were nearby, but no such sites were seen on aerial imagery and urban development may be a barrier to movement.
Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	—	CT	SSC	Rocky streams and rivers with open sunny banks, surrounded by forests, chaparral and woodlands. Sometimes found in isolated pools, backwaters, and spring-fed pools. Reproduction is exclusively in streams and rivers. Usually found near water and diurnal.	<b>Not expected.</b> Drainage B lacks sufficient water and rocky substrate required by this species, and it has been extirpated from this area since 1975-1978.
Lesser slender salamander	<i>Batrachoseps minor</i>	—	—	SSC	Forests composed of mixed oak, tanbark oak, sycamore and bay laurel with moist conditions. Found above 400 m elevation. Active above ground on warm, wet nights but otherwise is underground or under cover objects.	<b>Not expected.</b> This species has a very restricted distribution along the ridge of the Santa Lucia Range, and no suitable habitat is present.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
Northern California legless lizard	<i>Anniella pulchra</i>	—	—	SSC	Beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, oak woodland, and stream terraces with riparian vegetation. Fossorial species requires moist, loose soils or leaf litter with plant cover or surface objects (rocks, boards, logs, etc.). Can occur in residential areas.	<b>Potential.</b> Could occur in Riparian habitat onsite but very low probability to occur in Non-native Grassland where project would be located. Recorded at several locations in the vicinity.
Southwestern pond turtle (=western pond turtle)	<i>Actinemys pallida</i> (= <i>Emys marmorata</i> )	—	—	SSC	Ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, brackish lagoons, and irrigation ditches with a mosaic of vegetation and open areas for basking. Uses upland areas for nesting and in winter, including woodland, forest, grassland, chaparral, and grasslands.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Drainage B has insufficient water to support this species, and no suitable aquatic sites were seen on aerial imagery from offsite areas. If any suitable aquatic sites were present nearby, could move through Riparian or Grassland habitats, but this is unlikely due to urban development in the surrounding area.
Western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	—	—	SSC	Occurs in grassland and open woodland/savanna habitats where it primarily occupies underground burrows; breeds in vernal pools, ephemeral ponds, stock ponds lacking fish, and streams that dry to isolated pools.	<b>Not expected.</b> No topographic depressions capable of holding water are present on this sloping site, and species does not occur in small streams with shallow flowing water such as Drainage B. Urban development surrounds the site and therefore there is little chance they breed nearby and disperse to upland areas onsite.
<b>BIRDS</b>						
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	—	—	SSC	Grasslands, prairies, hayfields, and open pastures with little scrub cover and some bare ground where they prey on grasshoppers and other invertebrates. Nests on the ground at the base of clumps of grass within a large patch of tall grass. Occurs in this area during breeding season.	<b>Not expected.</b> Only marginal foraging and nesting habitat are present in Grassland since it is regularly mowed and has low structure, and there is only one record from the vicinity.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	—	—	— (nesting colony)	Freshwater and saltwater marshes, also foraging in grasslands and agricultural fields. Nesting colonies are near lakes, ponds and wetlands bordered by forests. Nests are placed mainly in trees, but may also nest on the ground, in bushes or artificial structures. Occurs year-round in this area.	<b>Potential.</b> Individuals could forage periodically in Grassland onsite, but would not nest onsite due to small size and insufficient structure of Wetland habitat. There are numerous records in eBird from near the site.
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E	E	WL	Riparian forest near permanent water or in dry river bottoms, with dense, low, shrubby vegetation where they forage on insects and spiders. Rare in this region during the breeding season and winters in southern Baja California.	<b>Potential.</b> Potentially suitable dense riparian is present onsite, but species has been very rare in this region in the past several decades. One breeding pair observed along the Salinas River north of Paso Robles in 2005 and historical records from within 5 miles of the site. Low probability to breed onsite and could occur as a transient.
Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	—	—	SSC (nesting)	Forages in developed areas, parks, fields, dunes, streams, meadows, and riparian and coniferous woodland where they prey on insects. Nests in coniferous woodlands in tall isolated trees or snags using woodpecker holes, or in artificial structures such as bird houses, traffic lights or oil pumps. Occurs in this area during the breeding season.	<b>Potential.</b> Could forage onsite in Riparian or grassland habitats, and potentially could nest in Riparian habitat. There are numerous recent observations from the area surrounding Atascadero.
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	—	CE	SSC (nesting colony)	Forages in a variety of habitats including pastures, agricultural fields, rice fields, and feedlots. Nests colonially in freshwater marshes with tules or cattails, or in other dense thickets of willow, thistle, blackberry, or wild rose in close proximity to open water. Occurs year-round in this area.	<b>Potential.</b> Could occur onsite periodically while foraging in Grassland habitat, but no nesting habitat is present - Wetland habitat onsite does not have emergent plant species with sufficient structure and Riparian lacks a large body of open water. Has been observed recently near the site.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed	CA	CDFW	Ecological Information	Evaluation of Occurrence/ Site Suitability / Local Records
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	—	—	FP (nesting)	Savannas, open woodlands (oak or pine), riparian forest, marshes, desert grasslands, and fields where they prey on small mammals, birds, lizards, and insects. Nests and roosts in the edges of forests or in tall isolated trees. Occurs in this area year-round.	<b>Potential.</b> Marginal foraging habitat is present in the Grassland habitat onsite due to small size and being surrounded by urban development. Low potential to nest in Riparian due to human activity surrounding the site. However, there are numerous sightings recorded in eBird from very close to site, and could occur as a rare transient.
<b>MAMMALS</b>						
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	—	—	SSC	Open grasslands, fields and the edge of scrub and woodland habitats; requires dry loose soils for burrowing and shelter and feeds on a variety of small mammals such as California ground squirrel and pocket gopher.	<b>Unlikely.</b> Suitable habitat is present in grassland onsite and potential prey is present, but due to being surrounded by urban development there is low potential for this species to occur.
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	—	—	SSC	Open dry habitats including deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Roosts in rocky outcrops, caves, crevasses, mines, hollow trees, and buildings that moderate temperature. Night roosts on porches and open buildings.	<b>Potential.</b> Could forage over the site but no roosting habitat is present on the property. Has been recorded in the vicinity.
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	—	—	SSC	Desert scrub, sagebrush, chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian and coniferous forests; prefers mesic habitats and closely tied to rock cliffs with crevasses; roosts in caves, cliffs, mines, tunnels and bridges.	<b>Potential.</b> Could forage over the site but no roosting habitat is present on or near the property. Has been recorded in the vicinity.

\*E = Endangered; T = Threatened; E = Candidate; SSC = Species of Special Concern; FP = Fully Protected; WL = Watch List; '—' = no status; California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019a); Special Animals List (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018b); California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CDFW 2019c); A Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of California (California Herps 2019); eBird (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019a); All About Birds (The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2019b).



CRITICAL HABITAT	
South-central California coast DPS Steelhead	<b>Absent.</b> The onsite drainages are too ephemeral to support this species and are not listed as critical habitat.

Source: *Threatened and Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2019b).*



## **APPENDIX D**

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### **Wetland Determination Data Forms**



# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 1  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Soft swale Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 0  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.55336 N Long: -120.714669 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: n/a

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Hydic Soil Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Remarks: Mowed. Characterizes bottom of swale that is seasonally moist and 7 - 10' wide. Drainage A.			

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>2</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>3</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>67%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
5. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.  <b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Hordeum marinum ssp. gussoneanum</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
2. <u>Hordeum brachyanthrurum</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
3. <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
4. <u>Rumex crispus</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
5. <u>Bromus hordeaceus</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
6. <u>Leaf litter</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>		
7. <u>Hordeum murinum ssp. leporinum</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
8. <u>Epilobium brachycarpum</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>0</u> % Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>				
Remarks:				

## SOIL

Sampling Point: 1

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
|--|---|---|
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problem area

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒

Remarks:

No hydric soil indicators. Rocky shale clay.

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> )         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                              |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present?      Yes      No      ☒      Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Table Present?      Yes      No      ☒      Depth (inches):

Saturation Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches):

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Area at data point has been mowed, but upstream in unmowed area there is evidence of hydrology: channel is incised 3-5' wide, and swale is 10' wide, vegetation is pushed over in direction of flow, and there are small scour pools.

# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 2  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Slope above soft swale Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 1  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.553330 N Long: -120.714736 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: n/a  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Remarks: Mowed. Upland point paired with DP1 characterizing disturbed annual grassland.	

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> ___ Dominance Test is >50% ___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> ___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
5. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Centaurea solstitialis</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
2. <u>Avena barbata</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. <u>Bromus diandrus</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
4. <u>Bromus hordeaceus</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
5. <u>Vicia villosa</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
6. _____				
7. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>0</u>	% Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>			
Remarks: upland paired point with data point 1				

## SOIL

Sampling Point: 2

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
|--|---|---|
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problem area

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒

Remarks:

No hydric soil indicators. Rocky shale clay.

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                      |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Table Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturation Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches):

Wetland Hydrology Present?    Yes                      No    ✓

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

no indicators of wetland hydrology observed



# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 3  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Drainage Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 1  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.553033 N Long: -120.714720 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: n/a

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Remarks: In channel bottom in front of culverts at the confluence of Drainage A (below input from an outfall under Bennett Way) and Drainage B. Located in channel outside of standing water. For paired upland data point, use DP2.	

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>2</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
5. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Hordeum brachyantherum</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
2. <u>Polypogon monspeliensis</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
3. <u>Cyperus eragrostis</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
4. <u>Rumex crispus</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
5. <u>Helminthotheca echioides</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
6. <u>Medicago polymorpha</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
7. <u>Poa annua</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
8. <u>Nasturtium officinale</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>OBL</u>	
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>0</u> % Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>				

Remarks:

characterizes wetland at two culverts directing flow under Bennett Way

## SOIL

Sampling Point: 3

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)               | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9)                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)                |   |   |
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problematic

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes ✓ No       

Remarks:

Soils is darker and low chroma compared to upland point. Remnant rock slope protection present at culverts

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

**Primary Indicators** (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                      |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes ☒ No ☐ Depth (inches): >8"

Water Table Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturation Present? Yes ☒ No ☐ Depth (inches): <8"  
(includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ✓ No       

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Saturation within 8", and below had open water in pit.

# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 4  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Drainage Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 0  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.552422 N Long: -120.715128 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: FW Forested/Shrub

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Remarks: Characterizes Drainage B channel in riparian forest.	

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>6</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>100%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>Salix laevigata</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>50</u> = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Cornus sericea</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
2. <u>Salix lasiolepis</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
3. <u>Toxicodendron diversilobum</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
<u>100</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
1. <u>Elymus triticoides</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
2. <u>Plantago major</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FAC</u>	
3. <u>Nasturtium officinale</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>OBL</u>	
4. <u>Epilobium ciliatum</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
5. <u>Sonchus asper</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FAC</u>	<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
6. <u>Callitriche sp.</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>OBL</u>	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>80</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
1. <u>None</u>	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>_____</u> = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>20</u> % Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>				

Remarks:

Wetland vegetation dominates approximately 25' wide area within channel

## SOIL

Sampling Point: 4

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)       | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )         | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9)          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)                |   |   |
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problematic

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes ✓ No       

Remarks:

Presumed present based on flowing water, soil saturation and presence of hydrophytes

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)               | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                                 |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes ☒ No ☐ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Table Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturation Present? Yes ☒ No ☐ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Flowing water present approximately 10' wide in channel with abutting/adjacent wetlands covering approximately 7.5 feet on each side of channel for total jurisdictional area of 25 feet.

# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 5  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Drainage Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 1  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.552519 N Long: -120.715192 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: FW Forested/Shrub

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Remarks: Characterizes area outside of the Drainage B wetland zone but within riparian corridor	

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>1</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>17%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>Quercus agrifolia</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>15</u> = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species <u>0</u> x 1 = <u>0</u> FACW species <u>20</u> x 2 = <u>40</u> FAC species <u>0</u> x 3 = <u>0</u> FACU species <u>25</u> x 4 = <u>100</u> UPL species <u>45</u> x 5 = <u>225</u> Column Totals: <u>90</u> (A) <u>365</u> (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>4.1</u>
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Toxicodendron diversilobum</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
2. <u>Salix lasiolepis</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>40</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> ___ Dominance Test is >50% ___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> ___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
1. <u>Bromus carinatus</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
2. <u>Bromus diandrus</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
3. <u>Conium maculatum</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>FACW</u>	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
<u>35</u> = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
1. <u>None</u>	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>65</u> % Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:  
Characterizes riparian corridor further upslope from channel



## SOIL

Sampling Point: 5

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)       | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )         | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9)          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)                |   |   |
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problematic

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ✓

Remarks:

No indicators of hydric soils observed.

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                      |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Table Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturation Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ✓ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes No ✓

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

No indicators of wetland hydrology observed.

# WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: 246 Bennett Way City/County: Templeton, San Luis Obispo Sampling Date: 05/09/2019  
 Applicant/Owner: People's Self Help Housing State: CA Sampling Point: 6  
 Investigator(s): Kevin Merk, Susan Christopher Section, Township, Range: T 27 S, R 12 E  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Gentle hill Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave Slope (%): 5  
 Subregion (LRR): LRR C Lat: 35.552619 N Long: -120.715253 W Datum: WGS84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Lockwood-Conception complex, 2 to 9 percent slopes NWI classification: n/a

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ☒ No ☐ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes ☒ No ☐  
 Are Vegetation ☐, Soil ☐, or Hydrology ☐ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydric Soil Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Remarks: Characterizes upland grassland adjacent to riparian zone outside of Drainage B.	

## VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0</u> (A) Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>2</u> (B) Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>0%</u> (A/B)
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B) Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				
3. _____				
4. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> ___ Dominance Test is >50% ___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> ___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
5. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>100m2</u> )				
1. <u>Avena barbata</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
2. <u>Medicago polymorpha</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>UPL</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. <u>Melilotus indicus</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>FACU</u>	
4. <u>Vicia villosa</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
5. <u>Acmispon wrangelianus</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>UPL</u>	
6. _____				
7. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. _____				
_____ = Total Cover				
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: _____)				
1. <u>None</u>				
2. _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum <u>10</u>	% Cover of Biotic Crust <u>0</u>			
Remarks: characterizes upland vegetation in annual grassland outside riparian corridor				

## SOIL

Sampling Point: 6

**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

[illegible]

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

## Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

### Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR D</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vernal Pools (F9) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cm Muck (A9) ( <b>LRR C</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) ( <b>LRR B</b> )<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Vertic (F18)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks) |
|--|---|---|
- <sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation wetland hydrology must be present unless disturbed or problem area

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

## Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒

Remarks:

refer to data point 2.

## HYDROLOGY

### Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

## Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

## Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Riverine</b> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Riverine</b> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Riverine</b> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) ( <b>Nonriverine</b> )    | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)                      |

**Field Observations:**

Surface Water Present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Table Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Saturation Present? Yes ☐ No ☒ Depth (inches):

Wetland Hydrology Present?    Yes                      No    ✓

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

No indicators of wetland hydrology observed.