BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES EVALUATION

SR 99/HOSKING COMMERCIAL CENTER PROJECT

Section 25, T30S, R27E, M. D. B. & M.

Bakersfield, California

April 2022 (Revision 1)

Prepared for:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the biological resources found during reconnaissance-level and focused biological surveys conducted during 2021 on approximately 90.59 acres (36.66 hectares) of undeveloped land in Bakersfield, California. The proposed project consists of a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change for commercial development within Assessor's Parcel Map Numbers (APN) 515-020-30, 515-020-07, 515-020-08, 515-020-09, 515-020-44 and is located in the southeast 1/4 of Section 25, Township (T) 30 South (S), Range (R) 27 East (E), Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (M. D. B. & M.) henceforth referred to as Project.

The purpose of this report is to document biological resources identified during the survey conducted for the proposed Project and to recommend avoidance and minimization measures for implementation prior to and during Project activities. This report includes an evaluation of the potential for special-status biological resources to occur on the Project site based on the habitat conditions observed. The Project is located within the geographic range of several threatened and/or endangered wildlife taxa including San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*; SJKF) and blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*; BNLL). In addition, the site is within the range of listed plant taxa, including Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var*. treleasei*).

Listed plant and animal species are protected primarily through the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Each of these laws, among other provisions, prohibits *take* of listed threatened and endangered species. Although the definition of *take* under each law varies somewhat, in general, injuring or killing listed species without a permit issued from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; formerly the California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG]) is unlawful. Under FESA, harassment and/or harm are also considered *take* for which the USFWS requires a permit. One of the potentially occurring species, BNLL is a California *fully protected* species. Under this designation, no *take* of this species is allowed, even under endangered species act permitting.

Based upon field survey results, the Project will not result in significant impacts to wetlands, riparian habitat or other special-status habitats. Based on evidence observed during the surveys, the Project does have the potential to affect some special-status species. Potential for burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, American badger, and San Joaquin kit fox was identified during the evaluation of biological resources potentially occurring on the Project site.

Species-specific recommendations and a series of general recommendations are included that, when implemented, would be expected to mitigate any Project effects to biological resources to a level of "less than significant." The Project will not conflict with existing or adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, local or regional conservation plans, or local ordinances protecting biological resources. No wetlands, riparian habitat, waters of the U.S., or waters of the State were observed during the biological surveys.

Consideration of potential impacts to plant and animal species are required under the *Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973* (FESA 2021), the California Endangered Species Act *of 1970*

(CESA 2021), and the *California Environmental Quality Act of 1970* (CEQA 2021) during a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change; however, the proposed Project is located within the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP) CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Number (No.) 2081-2013-058-04 boundaries. Potential impacts to species covered by the ITP, would be fully mitigated by participation in the MBHCP. Additional measures are included to mitigate for potentially significant impacts to other special-status species that are not covered under the MBHCP and CESA ITP.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Background

The purpose of this report is to document biological resources identified during biological surveys and literature review of the Project site, to assess the potential for special-status biological resources, analyze potential impacts to those resources and to recommend avoidance and minimization measures for implementation prior to and during Project activities. The literature review, survey results, and the professional experience of McCormick Biological, Inc. (MBI) staff were combined to evaluate the potential Project effects on biological resources. An initial reconnaissance survey was performed to evaluate habitat conditions suitable for occupation by potentially occurring special-status species; based on the existing natural vegetative communities, current site conditions, and diagnostic sign detected during the survey. Following the reconnaissance survey, three additional focused surveys were performed for the detection of burrowing owl.

This report is intended to support CEQA review of the proposed Project for a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change. For the purposes of this report, potential impacts to the biological resources of the proposed Project were evaluated in accordance with the biological resources section in Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* (2021).

1.2 Project Site and Surrounding Area Descriptions

The Project consists of five parcels of land (APN 515-020-30, 515-020-07, 515-020-08, 515-020-09, 515-020-44) totaling approximately 90.59 acres in Section 25, T30S, R27E, M. D. B. & M, in southern Bakersfield, California (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The general topography of the area is generally level as the land appears to have been cleared for urban development prior to 1994 but no construction was performed. Aerial imagery reflects that it has been at Project site has not been in a natural state since before 1985. The majority of the Project site has remained undeveloped since that time, while a small portion was farmed until 2008. This approximately 12.5-acre area has been fallow since that time. The Project site has been subject to various disturbances including off-road vehicle trespass, illegal dumping, and grass fires.

The Project site is surrounded by urbanized areas of southern Bakersfield, with State Route (SR) 99 immediately to the west, Berkshire Road to the north, South H Street to the east, and Hosking Road to the south. Land uses include residential development to the east and west, and undeveloped lands to the north and south. The undeveloped lands outside of the Project site have also been previously disturbed by agriculture, with recovering annual grassland that has been periodically disturbed by off-road vehicle trespass and fires more recently. The average elevation of the Project area is approximately 355 feet (108 meters) above sea-level.

The Project is located in central San Joaquin Valley; a broad, treeless plain in the rain shadow of the Coast Ranges. The region's climate can be characterized as Mediterranean; with hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters. Summer high temperatures typically exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F; 38 degrees Celsius [°C]); with an average of 110 days per year over 90 °F (32 °C).

Winter temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley are mild, with an average of only 16 days per year with frost (Twisselmann 1967).

Rainfall varies, increasing from west to east, with the west side of the valley receiving an average of around 4 inches (10 centimeters) per year and the east side averaging about 6 inches (15 centimeters) per year. Winter fog, called tule fog, sometimes forms during the months of November, December, and January, supplementing the annual precipitation. Approximately 90% of the rainfall in the region occurs between the 1st of November and the 1st of April. Drought cycles occur periodically, becoming severe enough that plant and animal populations can experience large fluctuations. The vegetation communities in the San Joaquin Valley are distinguishable from the Mojave Desert to the east due to tule fog, higher humidity, and isolation from continental climatic influences by mountain ranges (Twisselmann 1967).

1.3 Regulatory Background

The following section identifies the regulatory compliance framework that has been considered during both the field work and development of this biological evaluation. The regulatory framework establishes criteria in which significance is determined and whether a project will have a significant impact on species, biological resources, or the environment.

1.3.1 Federal and State Endangered Species Acts

The Project site is within the range of several state- and federal-listed species which are protected through various statutes. Listed plant and animal species are protected primarily through FESA and/or CESA. Each of these laws, among other provisions, prohibits *take* of listed threatened and endangered species. Although the definition of *take* under each law varies, in general, injuring or killing listed species without a permit issued from the USFWS and/or the CDFW is unlawful. Under FESA, harassment and/or harm could also be considered take, which requires a permit. The California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) has classified some species as *fully protected*. Under this designation, no take of these species is allowed, even with authorization under CESA or FESA permitting.

1.3.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Among other provisions, the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (MBTA) *of 1918* (2021) prohibits the destruction of nests, eggs, and/or young of all designated migratory bird species. With very limited exceptions, all birds are included in this prohibition (MBTA 2021).

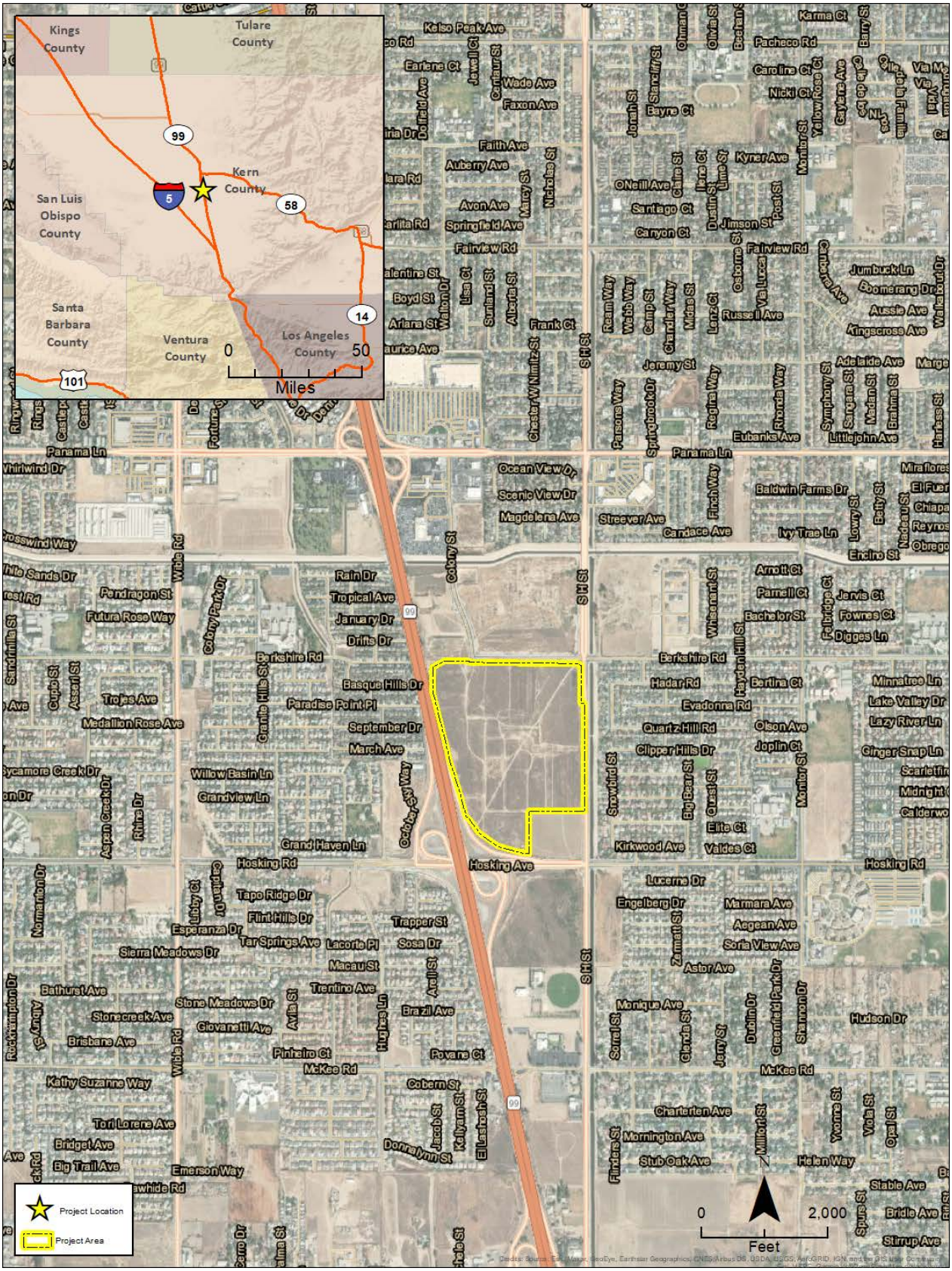

Figure 1-1: Aerial Photograph of the Proposed Project Site – Vicinity

Figure 1-2: Aerial Photograph of the Proposed Project Site

1.3.3 California Fish and Game Code (C.F.G.C. § 1580 et seq.)

The following paragraphs summarize several sections of the CFGC, and are applicable to analysis of biological resource impacts that may be associated with the Project.

Section 1580

This section declares the policy of the state is to protect threatened or endangered native plants; wildlife; aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types; both terrestrial and non-marine aquatic, or large, heterogeneous natural gene pools for the future use of mankind through the establishment of ecological reserves.

Sections 1600–1616

This portion of the CFGC requires notification to the CDFW if any of the following may occur within a river, stream, or lake in the state of California:

- Substantial diversion or obstruction of the natural flow,
- Substantially changing or using any material from the bed, channel, or bank,
- Depositing or disposing of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

This notification may result in a Streambed Alteration Agreement between the Project applicant and the CDFW. Activities in intermittent streams and canals may require Streambed Alteration Agreements.

Section 1900, et seq.

This portion of the CFGC is known as the *California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977* (2021). The purpose of this chapter is to preserve, protect and enhance endangered or rare native plants of California. Many species and subspecies of native plants are endangered because their habitats are threatened with destruction, drastic modification, or severe curtailment. Commercial exploitation, disease, and other factors also represent threats to species and subspecies of native plants. This portion of the code designates rare, threatened, and endangered plant taxa of California.

Section 1930–1933

These sections established the Significant Natural Areas Program and declared it to be administered by the CDFW, because areas containing diverse ecological and geological characteristics are vital to the continual health and well-being of the state's citizens and natural resources. The CDFW is responsible for obtaining access to the most recent information with respect to natural resources by maintaining, expanding, and keeping a current data management system (California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDB]), designed to document information on these resources. This data is required to be made available to interested parties on request, and costs are to be shared by all who use the data management system.

The state's most significant natural areas are to be designated and; after consultation with federal, state, and local agencies; educational institutions, civic and public interest organizations, private organizations, landowners, and other private individuals; periodic reports regarding the most significant natural areas are to be prepared. The CDFW is required to maintain and perpetuate these significant natural areas for present and future generations in the most feasible manner. The code also requires that the CDFW coordinate services to federal, state, local and private interests wishing to aid in the maintenance and perpetuation of significant natural areas.

Section 3503

This section prohibits taking, possessing, or needlessly destroying the nest or eggs or any bird. Birds of prey are included in Section 3503.5.

Section 3513

California's migratory birds are protected under this section by making it unlawful to take or possess any migratory, non-game bird (or any part of such bird) as designated in the MBTA.

Section 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515

These sections prohibit take of animals that are classified as fully protected in California. Take of fully protected species is specifically prohibited, even if other sections of the CFGC provide for incidental take of the species.

Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 et seq.

This portion of the CCR prescribes the regulations to be followed by all local and state agencies in implementing CEQA.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification or Waiver)

The state of California regulates water quality related to discharge of fill material into waters of the state pursuant to Section 401 of the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) *of 1972* (2021). Section 401 compliance is a federal mandate implemented by the state. The local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has jurisdiction over all those areas defined as jurisdictional under Section 404 of the CWA and regulates water quality for all waters of the State. These waters may include isolated wetlands as defined under the California *Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act* (2021). Regulated discharges include those that can affect water quality, even if there is no significant nexus to a traditional navigable water body required for the United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) determination of jurisdiction over waters of the U.S. A Waste Discharge Permit may be required to comply with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality

Control Act even if the CWA (including Section 401 water quality certifications or Section 404 permits) would not apply.

The ACOE, under Section 404 of the CWA, regulates discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. In addition to designated and traditional navigable waters, these terms include:

> waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: 1) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or 2) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or 3) Which are used or could be used for industrial purpose by industries in interstate commerce.

Tributaries to waters of the U.S. and adjacent wetlands would also be included. Some intermittent washes may be included in the defined waters of the U.S. depending on connection or nexus to navigable waters. Both wetlands and non-wetland areas can be included within the regulated area. Within non-wetlands that are classified as waters of the U.S., the ACOE maintains jurisdiction up to the ordinary high-water mark. If wetlands are present that meet the criteria established by the ACOE, the limit of jurisdiction is the ordinary high-water mark or the limit of the adjacent or associated wetland, whichever is greater. If waters are determined to be under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, the RWQCB would be the state-permitting authority. At the discretion of the ACOE, impacts to these areas could require a permit, depending on the type and size of the activity within ACOE jurisdiction.

1.3.4 Local Jurisdictions

Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (Including CESA ITP No. 2081-2013-058-04)

The Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP) (City of Bakersfield 1994; CDFW 2014) was developed to obtain permits that meet both federal and state environmental regulations regarding incidental "take" of listed species set for in the ESA and CESA. In turn, urban development outlined in the Metropolitan Bakersfield 2010 General Plan can proceed while the goal of the MBHCP is to acquire, preserve, and enhance native habitats that support endangered and sensitive species. Since development on open lands in Metropolitan Bakersfield could potentially result in the incidental "take" of habitat and/or sensitive species, permits acquired under the MBHCP include Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA and Section 2081 of the CESA. The MBHCP is funded through the collection of mitigation fees associated with all urban development occurring within the HCP permit area. The fee is paid to the City or County at the time of grading permit approval, grading plan approval, or issuance of building permit, whichever occurs first. Upon payment and provided that all applicable measures required in the HCP have been implemented, the applicant will become a sub-permittee and would be allowed the incidental take of species in accordance with federal and state endangered species laws.

Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan

The Metropolitan Bakersfield General Plan (2002) has developed Conservation/Biological Resources, Land Use, Open Space and Parks Elements goals, and policies that provide guidance for decision makers regarding the future affects to biological resources within the Metropolitan Bakersfield planning area. Goals and policies that are applicable to the proposed project, and the project's consistency with these goals, are outlined below.

CON/BR-G-1 "Conserve and enhance Bakersfield's biological resources in a manner which facilitates orderly development and reflects the sensitivities and constraints of these resources."

CON/BR-G-2 "To conserve and enhance habitat areas designated 'sensitive' animal and plant species."

CON/BR-P-1 "Direct development away from 'sensitive biological resource' areas, unless effective mitigation measures can be implemented."

CON/BR-P-5 "Determine the locations and extent of suitable habitat areas required for the effective conservation management of designated 'sensitive' plant and animal species."

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Literature and Records Review

For the purposes of this document, special status wildlife and plants include all species that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Special-status species considered in this evaluation include those that may occur in the project vicinity that have statutory protections and include federal- and state-listed (rare, threatened, or endangered; fully protected) species and candidates for listing under the respective endangered species acts.
    - Listed or candidates for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under CESA (Fish and Game Code §2050 et seq.). A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is endangered when the prospects of its survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, over-exploitation, predation, competition, disease, or other factors (Fish and Game Code §2062). A plant is threatened when it is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future in the absence of special protection and management measures (Fish and Game Code §2067).
    - Listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code §1900 et seq.). A plant is rare when, although not presently threatened with extinction, the species, subspecies, or variety is found in such small numbers throughout its range that it may be endangered if its environment worsens (Fish and Game Code §1901).

- Meet the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA §15380(b) and (d). Species that may meet the definition of rare or endangered include the following:
    - Species considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be "rare, threatened or endangered in California" (Lists 1A, 1B and 2);
    - Species that may warrant consideration on the basis of local significance or recent biological information.
    - Some species included on the California Natural Diversity Database's (CNDDB) Special Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (CDFW 2021a) or Special Animals List (CDFW 2021b).
    - Considered as sensitive by groups such as the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG), where such a group has concluded based on published and/or empirical data that the species is declining and warrants concern.

- Considered a locally significant species, that is, a species that is not rare from a statewide perspective but is rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA §15125 (c)) or is so designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). Examples include a species at the outer limits of its known range or a species occurring on an uncommon soil type.

Data sources included in the literature review included the following:

- **California Natural Diversity Data Base information (CNDDB – RareFind 5)**, which is administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), formerly known as the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). This database covers sensitive plant and animal species as well as sensitive natural communities that occur in California. Records from nine USGS quadrangles surrounding the project site (*Rosedale*, *Wasco, Famoso, North of Oildale, Rio Bravo, Oildale, Tupman, Stevens, Gosford*) were obtained from this database to inform the field survey (CNDDB 2021). For the purposes of this report, the term "historic" records refer to those occurrences that are more than 20 years old. Observations recorded in CNDDB noted in this report as "recent" are less than 20 years old.

- **California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants**, which utilizes four ranks of sensitive plant species to assist with the conservation of rare or endangered botanical resources. Records from the nine USGS quadrangles surrounding the project site were obtained from this database to inform the field survey (CNPS 2021).

- **Designated and Proposed USFWS Critical Habitat Polygons** were reviewed to determine whether critical habitat has been designated or proposed within or in the vicinity of the project site (USFWS 2021a).

- **The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory** was reviewed to determine whether any wetlands or surface waters of the United States have been previously identified in the survey area (USFWS 2021b).

- **The USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation Database (IPaC)** was reviewed to determine federal listed plant and wildlife species, as well as critical habitats that occur in in the vicinity of the project (USFWS 2021c).

- **The Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) Bat Species Regional Priority Matrix** was reviewed to determine whether any bat species which hold a high level of conservation concern that may occur in the vicinity (WBWG 2021).

"Special-status" or "sensitive" wildlife and plant species considered in this evaluation include those that may occur in the project vicinity that have statutory protections, such as federal- and state-listed (rare, threatened, or endangered; fully protected) species and candidates for listing under the respective endangered species acts. In addition, species that are of "concern" to either USFWS or CDFW have been included in the evaluation if the project site or vicinity (generally, 10-mile radius) includes habitat that may be occupied by such species. Special-status bird species that are not listed as threatened or endangered have been included if the project site or observed vicinity includes potential nesting habitat or the species was observed during biological survey activities. In addition, potential impacts to special-status bird species have been considered if habitat that may be important to the species outside of breeding season was

observed. Species may meet the criteria for inclusion on the lists consulted during the literature review if a special interest group, such as the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG), has concluded through empirical or published data that the species is declining and warrants concern and, potential habitat is present on the project site or vicinity. Species evaluated in this biological resource assessment have been collectively referred to as "special-status species."

In addition to the databases listed above, historic and current aerial imagery, existing environmental reports for development in the project vicinity, regional habitat conservation plans and local land use policies related to biological resources were reviewed.

The list of special-status species that was evaluated was additionally compiled by consulting pertinent literature, obtaining the USFWS List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project, and accessing the CNDDB (USFWS 2021; CNDDB 2021). The CNDDB contains records for special-status species, as well as special-status natural communities that have been reported to the CDFW. Updates to the database are provided monthly for subscribers (CNDDB 2021). A standard 10-mile (16-kilometer) report was generated for the project location (i.e., USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle in which the project site is found as well as the quadrangles located within a 10-mile (16-kilometer) radius of the project footprint: *Rosedale, Oildale, Oil Center, Stevens, Gosford, Lamont, Edison, Millux, Conner, Weed Patch, Arvin*. For clarity, a map was generated illustrating those species reported in close proximity to the project area by the CNDDB. Species that are recorded by the CNDDB that have no official status (e.g., Watch List) were not further considered in the impact evaluation unless observed during the reconnaissance site visits.

MBI Biologist Russell Sweet conducted the literature review and records search on April 9, 2021, to identify the previously reported observations and potential for occurrence of sensitive or special-status plant and wildlife species in the vicinity of the project site. MBI staff reviewed these lists and other pertinent information to complete the list of special-status species evaluated. The list was then reviewed based on-site characteristics, the project description, and observations, to assess the potential for occurrence. Potential impacts were determined in relation to the special-status species that may occur on the proposed project site and the aspects of the Project that could result in impacts to those species. Species whose occurrence in the vicinity and life history makes them vulnerable to impacts even if they are not known to occur directly on the project site were also evaluated.

2.2 Field Survey

A reconnaissance-level survey was conducted on the project site. Survey methods consisted of walking line transects of the Project site spaced no more than 100 ft. apart. Additionally, trees on and near (within 300 ft.) the project site were inspected via line-of-sight using binoculars for birds, nesting activity, or nesting materials. Field notes included documentation of all plant and wildlife species observed. Supporting documentation regarding species findings included direct observations and/or significant species *sign* (e.g., scat, tracks, feather/fur, prey remains, nests/burrows or any other indication of wildlife presence) deemed necessary to document potential occupation.

During the initial (reconnaissance) survey, the Project site was evaluated to determine whether focused surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) at the Project site. if warranted based on the presence of potentially suitable burrows or burrow surrogates, surveys were conducted in accordance with survey recommendations from "2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation," (Staff Report) (CDFG 2012). At least three additional surveys were conducted during the burrowing owl breading season from 15 February to 15 July for a total of four surveys during burrowing owl breeding season. Surveys were conducted during morning or sunset hours per the parameters in the Staff Report to provide the highest detection probabilities. Survey methods consisted of walking line transects in habitat areas suitable for burrowing owl, as well as scanning the project area for burrowing owls using binoculars. Field notes included direct observations of burrowing owls as well all potential burrows and sign (pellets, prey remains, whitewash) observed.

If observed, San Joaquin kit fox dens were classified as potential, known, natal, or atypical as defined in the *United States Fish and Wildlife Service* (USFWS) *Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (2011). If encountered, coordinates for important habitat elements (such as dens and burrows) and direct observations of special-status species were recorded using a handheld global positioning system (accuracy ±20 feet, ±6 meters). Small mammal burrows were examined to identify suitability for special-status small mammals based on scat, tracks, and tail drags if present.

All plant taxa encountered were identified to the extent possible given the diagnostic features present. Identifications were made using keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* and online updates containing revisions to taxonomic treatments (Baldwin et al. 2012; Jepson Flora Project 2021). When necessary, plant identifications were made using a 10X or greater magnification field hand lens and/or were collected and identified using a dissecting microscope. Locations of special-status plant species or tentatively identified special-status plant species were recorded using a handheld global positioning system unit.

General habitat and site conditions were photographed to visually depict conditions during the field surveys. In addition, special-status species or habitat features, such as vegetation communities or ephemeral channels, were also photographically documented when encountered.

Subsequent to conducting the reconnaissance-level survey, special-status resource occurrence information from the existing databases and literature was reviewed against field survey results to complete an occurrence evaluation. A table was prepared that presents an evaluation of the potential for each species identified during the literature review to occur on the Project site. Each special-status species was then categorized as follows: no potential to occur (none); low potential; moderate potential; high potential; or known to occur. A brief explanation is provided in the table and additional information is presented in Section 3.0. Potential impacts to each identified special-status resource were compiled based on this occurrence evaluation. If potentially significant impacts were identified during the evaluation process, recommendations for reducing these impacts are included in this report, with a goal of reducing impacts to "less

than significant." If impacts could not be reduced to "less than significant", those impacts are identified. The sources of these recommendations include agency guidelines and protocols, previously prepared environmental documents for similar projects, and MBI's experience and professional judgment.

3.0 RESULTS

The literature review resulted in identification of 22 special-status plants and 41 special-status wildlife taxa for evaluation that could occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project (Appendix A; Tables A1–A2). Figures 3-1 through 3-5 provide the results of the 2021 CNDDB records query within 10 miles (16 kilometers) for the proposed Project. The general site conditions combined with the habitat requirements and known ranges of these species were evaluated to determine potential for occurrence of these species on the proposed Project site.

3.1 General Conditions

A reconnaissance-level survey was conducted on April 2, 2021, by Mr. Sweet and Erika Noel, MBI biologists with assistance from Kiersten Abarca, a MBI biological technician. Photographs taken during the site visit are shown in Appendix B. Site visits were also conducted on 4/28, 5/29, and 6/14/2021. During these site visits, 14 plant species and 13 wildlife species were observed (Appendix C). No nesting bird activity or nesting material was observed on or adjacent to the project site during the reconnaissance survey or subsequent focused surveys. No direct observations of special-status species were recorded during the site visits. Indirect evidence of SJKF was recorded (see Section 3.2.1).

The Project site is currently undeveloped with disturbed annual grassland and ruderal vegetation where vegetation is present. No existing permanent structures were present on the Project site. At the time of the survey, evidence of ongoing disturbance such as foot traffic, vehicle traffic, illegal dumping, and transient encampments were observed. During the course of the surveys, sometime between 5/27 and 6/14/2021, disturbance from heavy equipment occurred and was recorded by the surveyor conducting the burrowing owl survey on 6/14/2021 (Appendix B, photos B-6 and B-7). No undisturbed, natural lands were present on or in the vicinity of the Project site.

The SSURGO soil survey map describes the soil at the Project area as Kimberlina fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 % slopes (Figure 3-6). Observed conditions were consistent with the soil survey, but surface soils were heavily disturbed.

The remainder of this section discusses the 2021 field survey results for special-status biological resources and evaluation of those results based on the literature review and professional judgment of MBI personnel.

3.2 Special-status Biological Resources

As a result of the literature review, 22 special-status plants and 41 wildlife taxa were identified through database queries as potentially occurring on or in the vicinity of the Project site. Special-status plant and animal species identified with at least a low potential to be impacted by the Project are further discussed in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, below. Evidence of San Joaquin kit fox

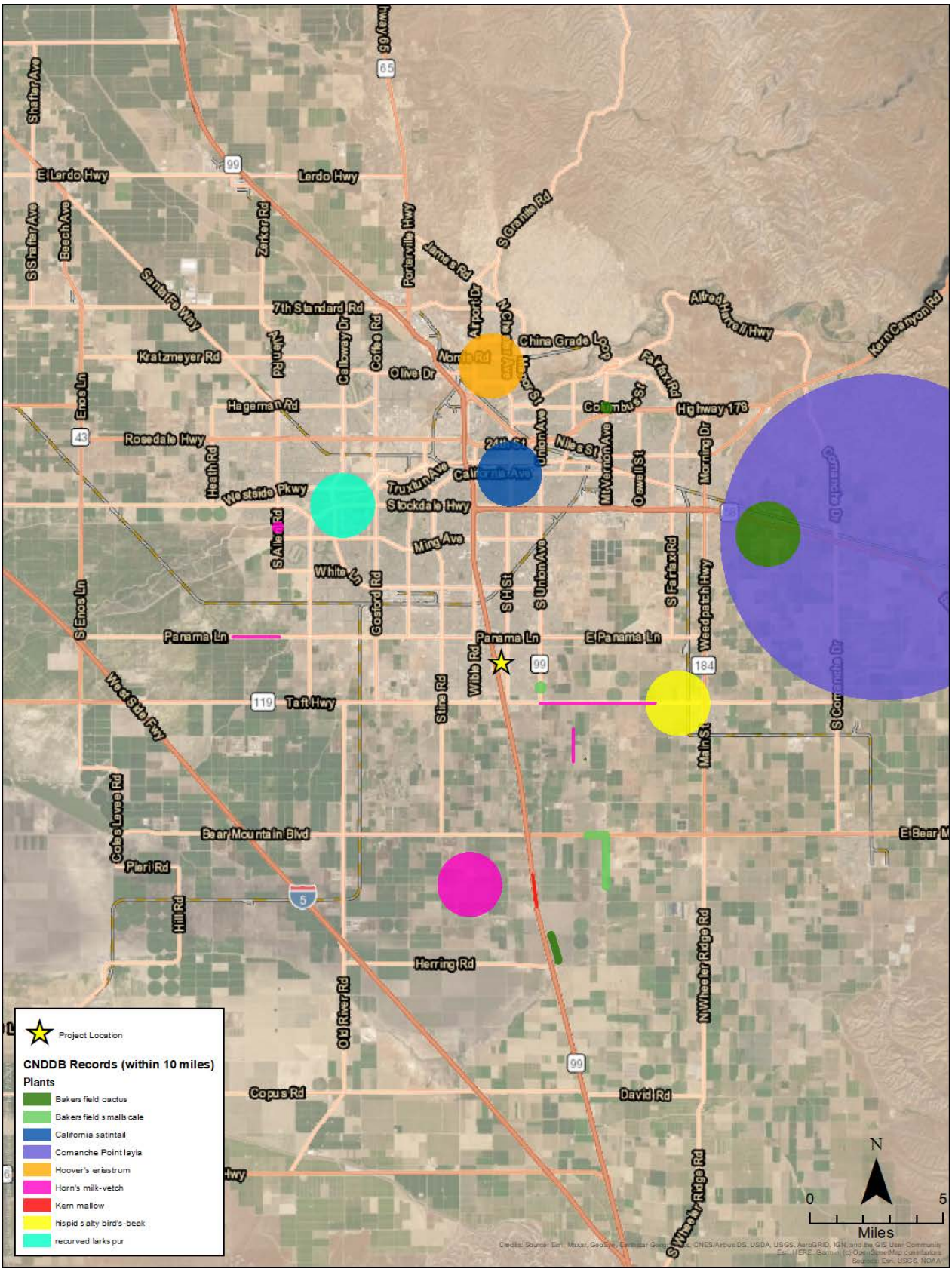

Figure 3-1: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) special-status plant results

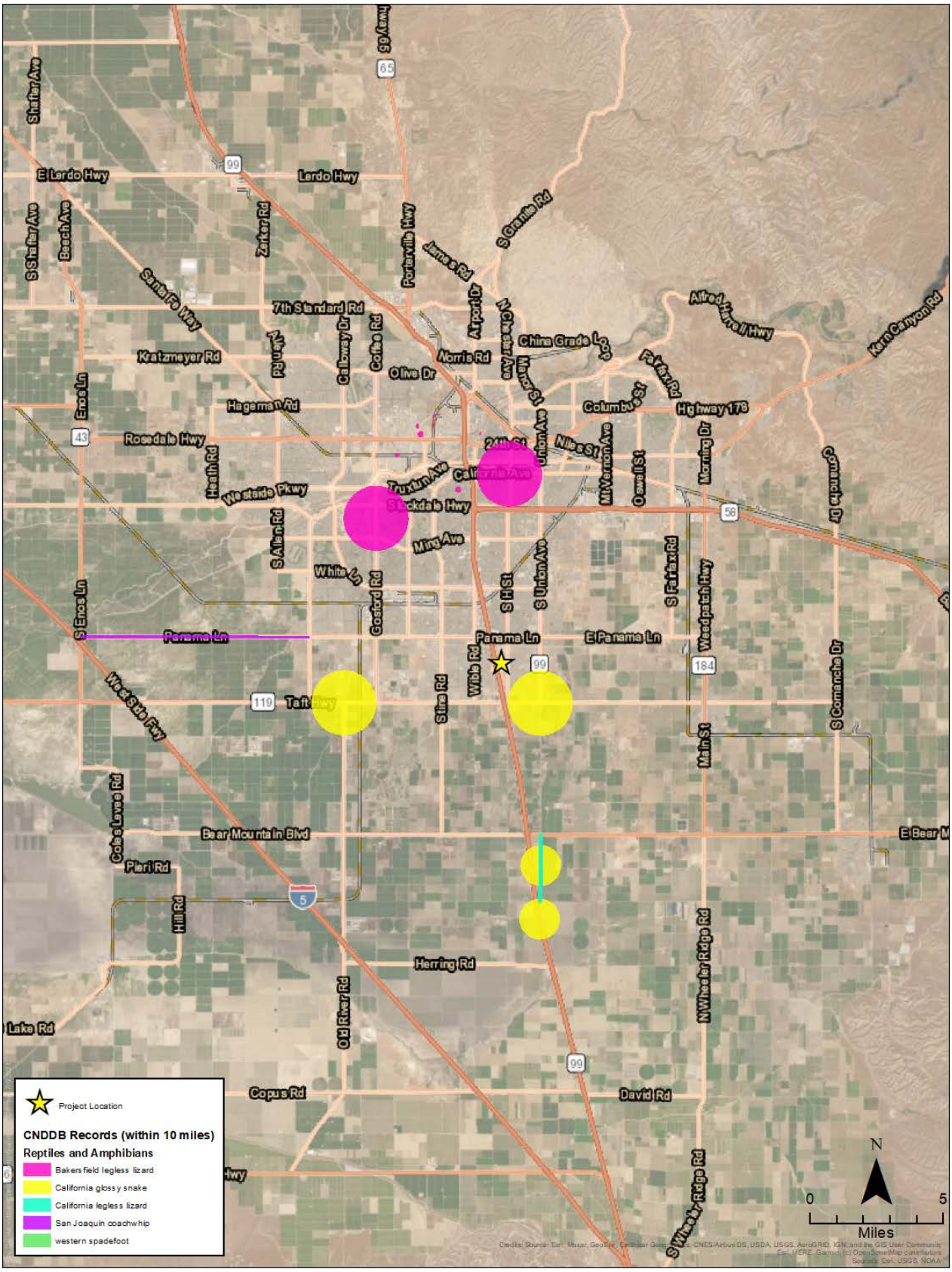

Figure 3-2: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) special-status reptile and amphibian results

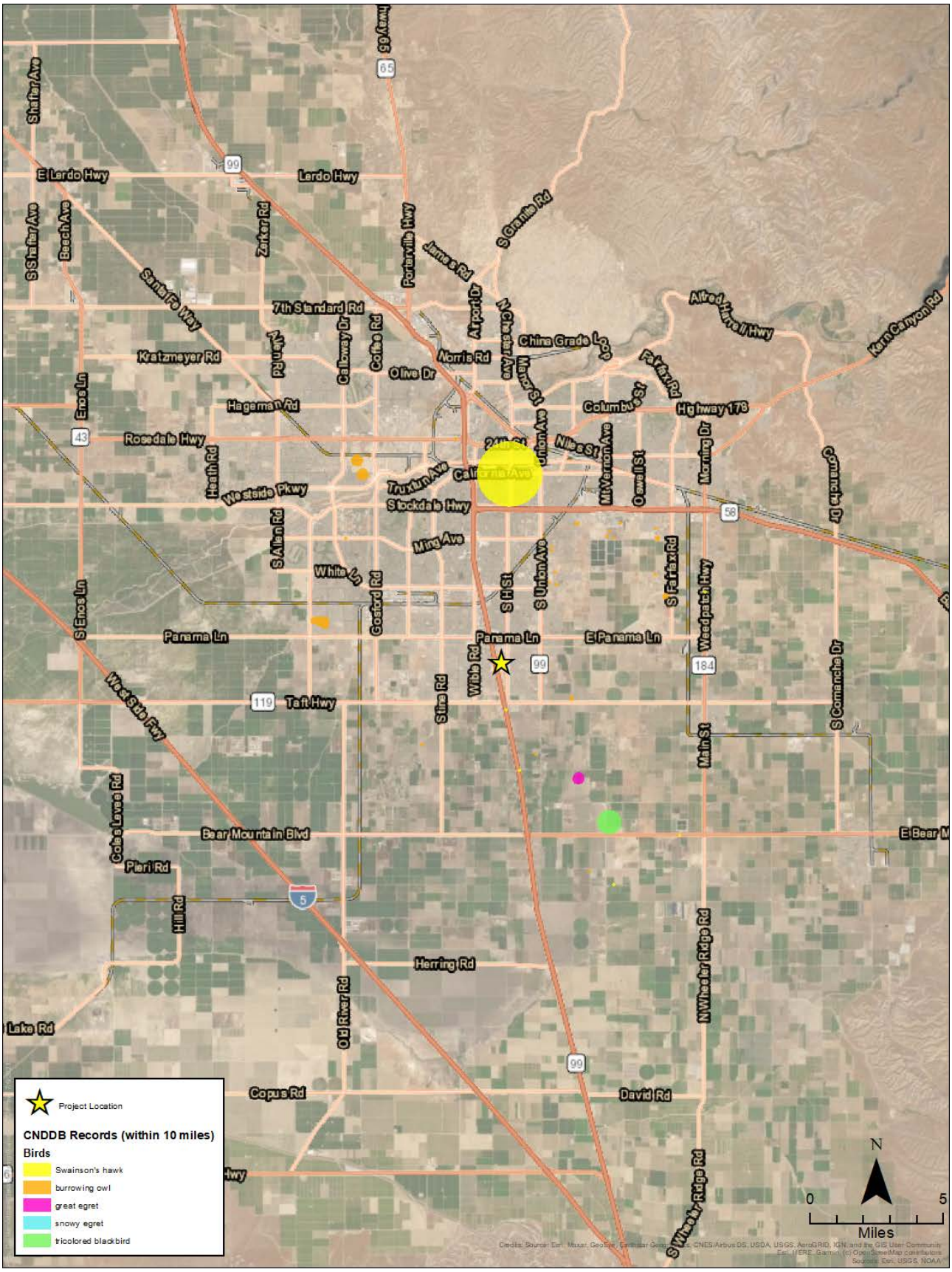

Figure 3-3: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) special-status bird results.

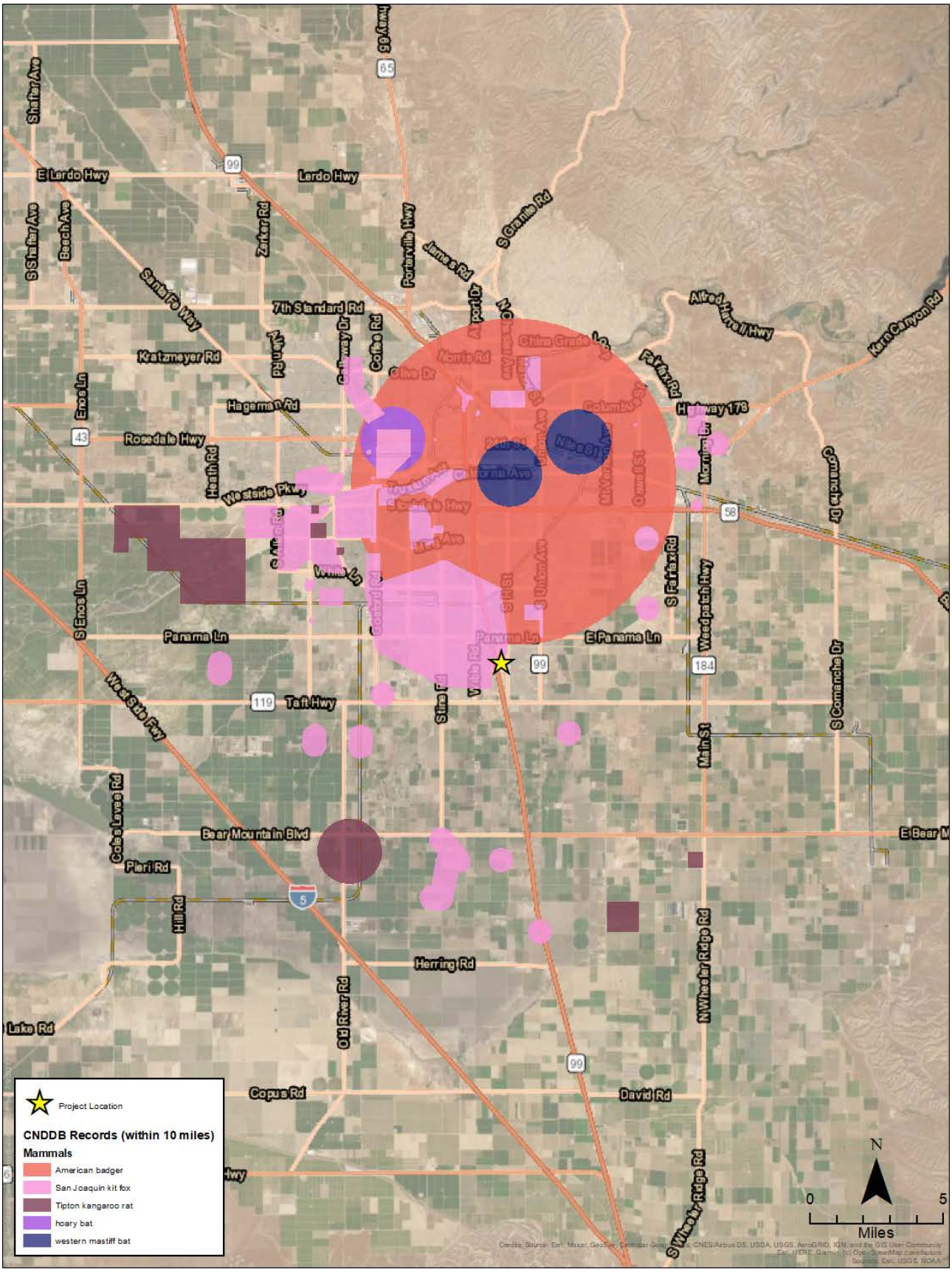

Figure 3-4: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) special-status mammal results.

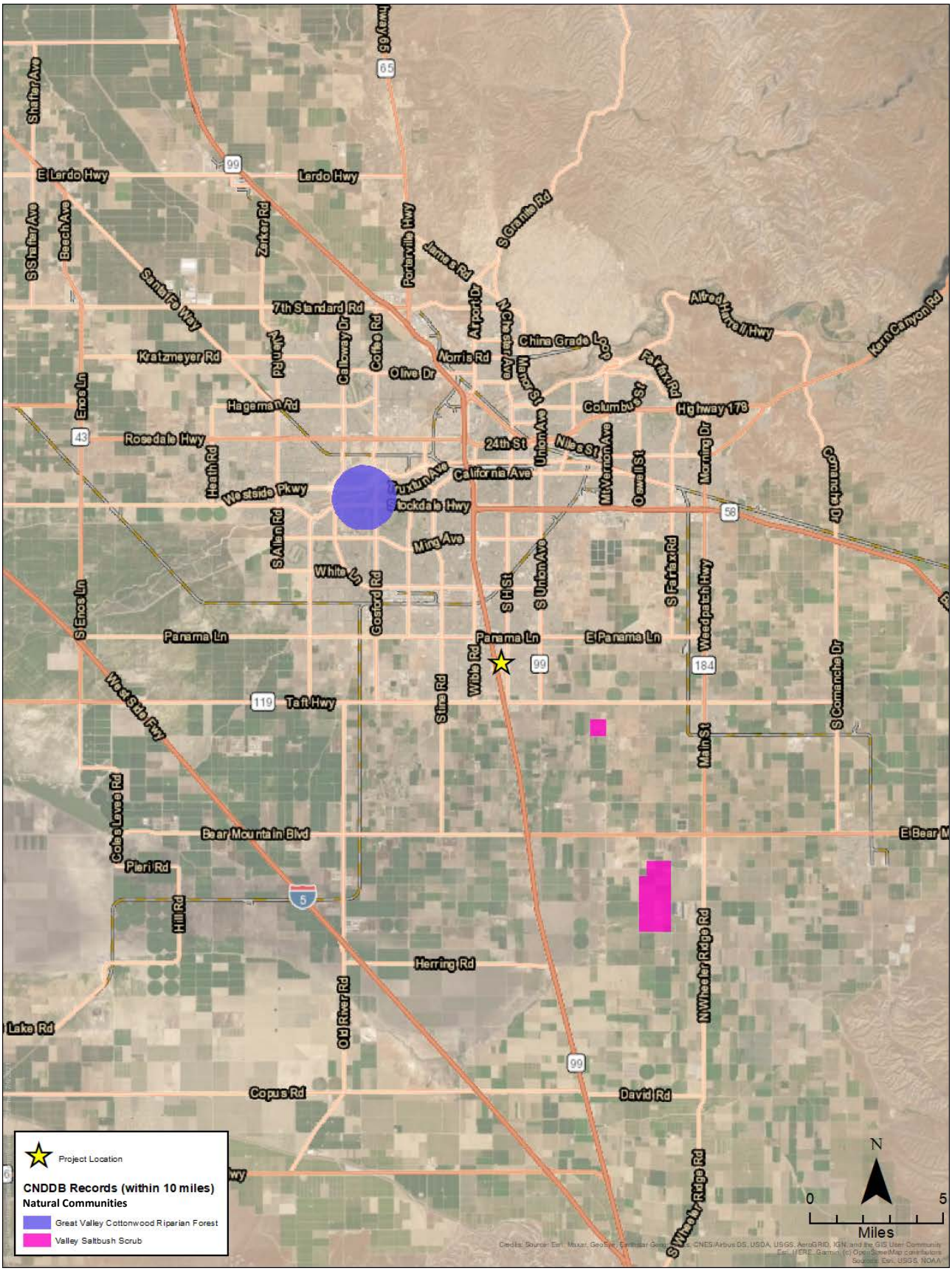

Figure 3-5: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) natural communities results.

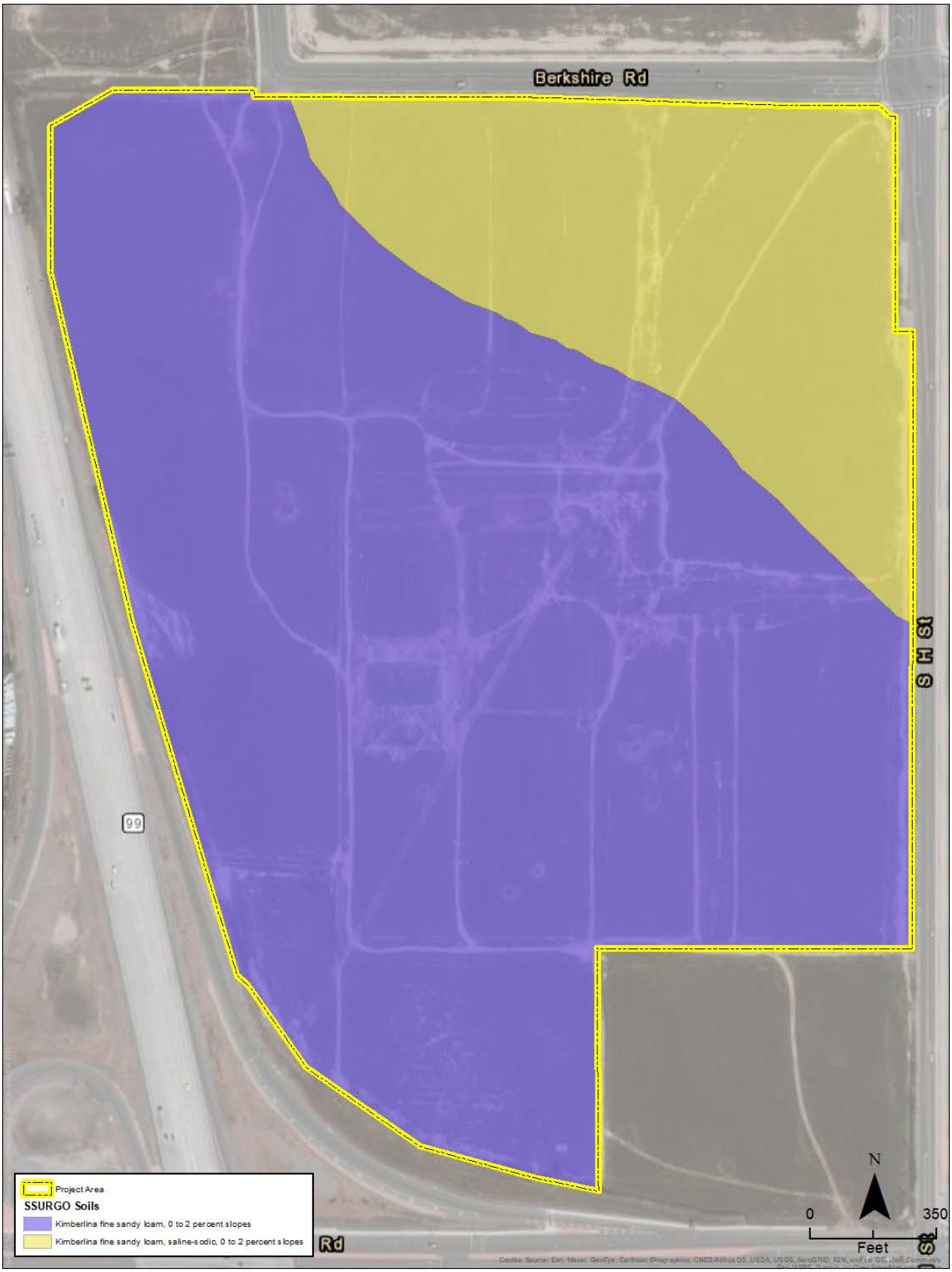

Figure 3-6: Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) soil results.

occupation was observed on the Project site. A high potential for burrowing owl was concluded, while Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and American badger were found to have a low potential to occur on the Project site. Those that the initial evaluation found with no potential to occur, and therefore, not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed Project are not discussed further in this report.

3.2.1 Special-status Plant Species

Twenty-two special-status plants were evaluated as a result of the literature review. Only 5 of these plant taxa are state and/or federally listed. CEQA requires consideration of impacts to locally significant plant species and those that meet the criteria for listing but which may not be officially listed under CESA or FESA. No listed or other special-status plant species were observed during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report. No listed or other special-status plant species have been recorded as occurring within the Project site footprint by any of the literature sources consulted. All special-status plant species were eliminated from further consideration because the proposed The Project site does not provide suitable habitat or the proposed Project site is out of the known range of each taxon. In addition, wildlife surveys were conducted throughout the potential blooming period for most of the special-status plants identified that occur within the vicinity of the Project site. Based on the evaluation, no additional discussion is provided for special-status plant species beyond the evaluation included in Appendix A (Table A-1).

3.2.2 Special-status Wildlife Species

Appendix A (Table A-2) contains a discussion of the potential for each species to occur on the Project site and whether there is a potential for impacts based on a combination of the literature review and conditions observed on and in the vicinity of the Project site. Table 3-2 shows those special-status wildlife that were determined to have at least a low potential for occurrence on the proposed Project site based on the evaluation contained in Appendix A. Additional discussion regarding burrowing owl, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, American badger, and San Joaquin kit fox is provided in the following paragraphs.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

The burrowing owl is a California species of special concern, and documented population declines have occurred in the state since at least the 1970s. It has no federal listing but is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and potential habitat may be protected through the California Environmental Quality Act (CDFG 2012; CNDDB 2021; MBTA 2021). The burrowing owl is a small, ground-dwelling owl with a round head that lacks ear tufts. Adults are sandy brown overall with bold spotting and barring, have white eyebrows above yellow eyes, and can be distinguished from all other small owls by their long legs. Adult burrowing owls have an average weight of 6 ounces (170 grams), a full body length of 8.5 to 11 inches (22–28 centimeters), and average wingspan of 20- to 24-inches (51- to 61-centimeters) wingspan (Brown 2006).

Table 3-1: Special-status Wildlife That May Occur in the Project Area for Which Potential Impacts Were Identified*

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal/State[1]
Birds		
Athene cunicularia	Burrowing owl	-/CSC
Buteo swainsoni	Swainson's hawk	S/T
Elanus leucurus	White-tailed kite	
Mammals		
Taxidea taxus	American badger	-/CSC
Vulpes macrotis mutica	San Joaquin kit fox	E/T

[1]Status:

Federal
- E — Listed as Endangered
- - — No listing status

State
- C — Candidate for Listing
- CSC — California Species of Concern
- T — Listed as Threatened

* For additional evaluation of other special-status species, see Appendix A, Table A-2

Within California, this species is found throughout the Central Valley, in the San Francisco Bay Area, Carrizo Plain, and Imperial Valley. Typical habitat includes open grasslands, agricultural or range lands, and desert lands with short, sparse vegetation at elevations from 200 feet (61 meters) below sea level to 9,000 feet (2,743 meters) above sea level (Brown 2006). The Central Valley population resides in the area year-round in the annual and perennial grasslands or other vegetation communities that support little to no tree or shrub cover. The state of California is also considered an important wintering ground for migrants; thus, California's burrowing owl population increases during the winter season (CDFG 2012; Dunn & Alderfer 2008; Shuford & Gardali 2008). Nesting season begins late March and breeding pairs exhibit biparental care in which the female incubates the eggs and the male cares for the young.

Burrowing owls are active daytime and nighttime but are mostly active during dawn and dusk. In California, the species is typically found in close association with California ground squirrels that create burrows that are used by burrowing owls as year-round shelter and seasonal nesting habitat; however, burrowing owls may also use human-made structures such as culverts, corrugated metal pipes, debris piles, or openings beneath pavement as shelter and nesting habitat. During active periods of the year they may be observed above ground in the vicinity of their burrows, or roosting on the ground or nearby high spots such as berms, fence posts, or shrubs. They have a varied diet that includes insects, small rodents, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and carrion, and there is some evidence that population sizes of California vole (*Microtus californicus*) influence their survival and reproductive success (Poulin et al., 1998). Pellets including animal bones and exoskeletons may be found near burrow entrances, along with whitewash and tracks.

Based on initial survey results identifying potentially suitable burrows for burrowing owl, additional surveys were conducted per the recommendations in the Staff Report (Figure 3-6). The initial survey was conducted on 4/2/2021, with follow-up surveys on 4/28, 5/27, and 6/24/2021. Follow-up survey personnel included Russell Sweet, Erika Noel, and Blaine Grant, MBI biologists. No direct or indirect evidence of occupation by burrowing owl was noted during any of the focused surveys conducted on the Project site.

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Swainson's hawks are state listed as a threatened species (CNDDB 2021). They are diurnal and similar in size to the red-tailed hawk but lack their pale spotting on scapulars. There are two distinct color morphs with variations in between. Light morphs have a whitish forehead and white patch on the throat below the bill, while the rest of the head, sides of the throat, patch on its chest, and all other upper body parts are dark brown. The belly is white with brown barring, and in flight their wings have dark trailing edges that contrast with the light-colored leading edges and the belly. Individuals of the dark morph are entirely dark brown, except for a patch under the tail (Brown 2006; Dunn and Alderfer 2008). The Swainson's hawk feeds on mice, gophers, ground squirrels, rabbits, large arthropods, amphibians, reptiles, birds and sometimes fish (Brown & Amadon 1968; Dunkle 1977).

Figure 3-7: Biological resources identified on the Project site during biological surveys (2021).

Swainson's hawks are an uncommon resident and migrant in the Central Valley, Klamath Basin, Northeastern Plateau, Lassen County and Mojave Desert. Limited breeding has been reported from Lanfair Valley, Owens Valley, Fish Lake Valley and Antelope Valley (Bloom 1980; Garrett and Dunn 1981). Most of the state's breeding sites are in two disjunct populations in the Great Basin and Central Valley. In the Central Valley, nest sites are strongly associated with riparian forest vegetation, whereas in the Great Basin nest sites are widely distributed in upland habitats (Woodbridge 1998). Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. High use foraging habitat in the southern San Joaquin Valley is typically actively harvested alfalfa and irrigated grain fields. Migrating individuals move south through the southern and central interior of California in September and October and move north from March through May (Grinnell and Miller 1944; Zeiner et al. 1988-1990).

No potential nest trees were present on the Project site. One eucalyptus tree was observed adjacent to SR 99 near the northwest corner of the Project site, and a few additional eucalyptus were present along both east and west sides of SR 99 north of the Project site. A few remnant cottonwood trees were observed north-northeast of the Project site, beginning approximately 0.1 miles north on the east side of South H Street. An active nest was reported in a eucalyptus tree approximately 1.25 miles south of the Project site on the east side of SR 99 in 2019.

This portion of Bakersfield is rapidly urbanizing, with residential, commercial, and industrial development dominating the landscape within 2 miles of the Project site. The Project is approximately 1.3 miles from the nearest agricultural lands that would provide high quality foraging opportunities for nesting Swainson's hawks, and the highly disturbed nature of the grassland onsite is likely to support a marginal level of prey for this species. While there are potential nest trees adjacent to and near the Project site, the distance to high quality foraging habitat and marginal quality of the site itself reduce the potential for foraging by this species should it nest in the vicinity.

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*)

The white-tailed kite is fully protected in the state of California. It is falcon shaped with long pointed wings and a long white tail. Adults are pale gray with a white head and underparts, while juveniles have a rusty breast, brown back and a narrow dark band near the tip of their pale grayish tail. The species soars and flies like a small gull, and they often hover. A large black patch can be seen on the shoulder (fore-edge of the upper wing) in perched birds, and an oval black patch is evident at the "wrist" joint on the underwing of a bird in flight (Dunn and Alderfer 2008; Peterson 1990).

A year-round resident of the San Joaquin Valley, white-tailed kites inhabit low elevation grassland, agricultural, wetland, oak-woodland, or savannah habitats. This species hunts almost exclusively by hovering, searching the ground below for prey items such as small mammals, birds, lizards, and insects. Nesting trees range from 10 to 160 feet (3–49 meters) in height and can be isolated or part of a larger forested area. Nests are composed of small twigs and lined with grass, hay, or leaves. They lay three to five eggs that are incubated for 30 to 32 days, and the young kites fledge at 5 to 6 weeks of age (Dunk 1995).

No suitable nesting habitat was present on the Project site, but marginally suitable foraging habitat is present. Given the high degree of disturbance, it is unlikely that the Project site supports the level of prey typical of foraging habitat for this species.

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

The American badger is a California species of special concern (CDFW 2020). This species is a low, squat animal with conspicuous silver-tipped, dorsal fur and a short, black-tipped tail. The most striking visual feature of this species is its striped face, consisting of a median white stripe proceeding from the tip of its nose to the back of its head. This stripe is flanked by alternating white and dark stripes giving way to bright, white-outlined ears. The American badger has short but powerful legs, and the front feet are fitted with long claws that are well suited for digging out the burrows of the rodents on which it feeds (Reid 2006). In addition to rodents, their diet includes other small mammals, invertebrates, birds, snakes and carrion. Mating occurs in late summer or early autumn, and litters of two to five offspring are born in early spring (Zeiner et al. 2020b).

The historic range of American badgers in California was throughout the state with the exception of the humid coastal forests in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties (Zeiner et al. 2020b). Their modern distribution in the lower San Joaquin Valley is restricted to the limited, often isolated tracts of grassland and shrubland habitats. Cultivated lands have been reported to provide little usable habitat for this species. In the 1980s, badgers were believed to be declining throughout California, and their status has not changed (Williams 1986).

Badgers are primarily nocturnal animals and infrequently observed directly during daytime surveys; however, they have a fairly distinctive digging style and burrow shape, which is easily detected in the field. Combined with tracks, it is typically the method used to determine presence on a site (Reid 2006; Zeiner et al., 1990). In addition, it is notable that badger burrow size overlaps with that of SJKF.

California ground squirrel burrows and both known and potential SJKF dens were observed, but none of these burrows/dens had sign of badger presence or evidence of foraging. Although badgers can be tolerant of human disturbance, the intensity and frequency of disturbance on this site reduces the potential for occurrence of this species.

San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)

The SJKF currently federal-listed as endangered and state-listed as threatened, resembles a small, lanky dog in appearance, with disproportionately large ears containing an abundance of large white, inner guard hairs. This species is the largest subspecies of kit fox, with adults weighing 4.5 to 5 pounds (2–2.3 kilograms). Total length is about 32 inches (81 centimeters), including a bushy black-tipped tail up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) long, and total height is about 12 inches (30 centimeters) tall. Coloration ranges from light buff to grayish along the back and tail; gray, rust, or yellowish along the sides; and white on the belly.

SJKF occur in a variety of open grassland, oak savannah, and shrub vegetation types/habitats as well as oil-producing and urban areas in Kern County. Predation is an appreciable cause of SJKF mortality, with urban kit foxes yielding higher survival rates due to lack of competition with large carnivores such as coyotes (USFWS 2010c). In the southern San Joaquin Valley portion of the range, SJKF are generally found in sparse, annual grassland and scrub communities (e.g., valley sink scrub, saltbush scrub) with low annual precipitation. Home ranges for the taxon have been reported by several authors to range from 1 to 12 square miles (1.6–19 square kilometers) with large overlap in home ranges among individuals, though dens are restricted to a single family. They change dens on a regular basis, likely due to prey depletion; in one study, a single kit fox was tracked to 70 dens during a 2-year period (Native fish and wildlife 1967; USFWS 1998). Dens are used for temperature regulation, shelter, reproduction, and safety from potential predators, but characteristics such as number of entrances varies across the taxon's range. In the southern portion of its range the taxon often creates dens with two entrances, and natal dens generally have multiple entrances. Entrances are usually 8 to 10 inches (20–25 centimeters) in diameter and are normally greater in height than width, but kit foxes can utilize dens with entrances as small as 4 inches (10 centimeters) in diameter. Kit foxes do not typically excavate their own dens, but rather enlarge the burrows of other species, such as California ground squirrels and American Badgers, or utilize human-made structures such as culverts and pipelines.

The diet of this taxon consists largely of nocturnal kangaroo rats and other small mammals, though they may also eat ground-nesting birds or insects (USFWS 2010c). Similar to many desert species, kit fox do not need drinking water and obtain hydration from their diet. Breeding season is December-March with pups typically born between February and March. Adult breeding pairs remain monogamous within the same year, but pairs may change between years (Morrell 1972; USFWS 1998).

SJKF are primarily nocturnal but can be seen during the day when activities on the surface get their attention or when pups are present and play outside of the den in late afternoon. Potential site occupation is determined based on observation of canid scat and/or tracks within a size range appropriate for this species, and presence of dens that meet the criteria for classification as known or natal/pupping per the USFWS guidelines (USFWS 2011b).

Sixteen dens were identified and evaluated for possible use by San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF). Of these, 8 were determined to be "known dens" per the definitions in USFWS guidelines (2011b). This designation was based on the presence of SJKF scat and prey remains, indicating prior or current use by SJKF. The remaining 8 dens were classified as potential dens, lacking any sign of use by SJKF (USFWS 2011b) (Figure 3-6). No other direct or indirect evidence of special-status species occupation was noted during surveys conducted on the Project site. During the focused BUOW survey visit on 6/24, MBI biologist Erika Noel found recent soil disturbance which appeared to be from heavy equipment. Four previously identified dens, 3 potential SJKF dens and 1 known SJKF den, were collapsed by equipment disturbance (Figure 3-6, Appendix B; photo B-6 and B-7).

3.2.3 Riparian Habitat, Wetlands, and Other Waters

A search of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory resulted in no wetlands mapped on the Project site (USFWS 2021b). These results are consistent with the observed conditions within the survey area. No wetlands, riparian habitat, potential waters of the U.S., or potential waters of the State were observed.

3.2.4 Critical Habitat

There is no USFWS-designated Critical Habitat within a 10-mile radius of the proposed Project site.

4.0 IMPACT ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Effects of the Proposed Project

This section provides an analysis of the potential impacts of the Project following the standards of CEQA and CEQA Guidelines. The Project is located within the MBHCP boundaries (CDFW ITP No. 2081-2013-058-04); however, the proposed Project includes a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change. Consideration of potential impacts to plant and animal species are required under FESA, CESA, and CEQA during a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change. Any impacts to species covered by the ITP would be fully mitigated by participation in the MBHCP.

CEQA Appendix G thresholds have been used to evaluate potential impacts to the biological resources from the proposed Project. The Project would create a significant impact to biological resources, based on the specifications in the biological resources section in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, if the following were to occur:

1. 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 the CDFW or the USFWS;

2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations; or by the CDFW or the USFWS;

3. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by section 404 of the CWA (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means;

4. 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;

5. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance;

6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

The following analysis discusses potential impacts associated with the development of the Project and provides recommendations where appropriate to further reduce potential impacts.

1. **Would the project 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 the CDFW, or the USFWS?**

Effects to Special-status Plants:

The CNDDB, USFWS, and CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory queries returned a total of 22 special-status plants that have been documented as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the proposed Project site. Based on MBI's habitat suitability analysis, none of the special-status plant species had the potential to occur within the proposed Project site (Appendix A, Table A-1). During the survey a total of 14 plant species were observed, 9 of which are non-native species. No listed or California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) species were identified on the proposed Project site during the field survey and the site does not represent suitable habitat for any of the special-status plants evaluated. Therefore, there is no potential for direct and indirect impacts to special-status plant species within the Project site. As described above, the Project site has undergone frequent disturbance, was historically intensive agriculture and is surrounded by urban and agricultural lands. No special-status plant species have potential to occur on site; therefore, no significant impacts to special-status plants would occur. No additional measures or recommendations are necessary.

Effects to Special-status Wildlife:

Burrowing Owl

Although no burrowing owls or sign of species presence was observed during the focused surveys, California ground squirrel burrows, which are frequently used by burrowing owls for nesting and shelter, along with potential and known SJKF dens, were observed. The site is likely to support small mammals that are potential prey items in the diet of burrowing owl. Therefore, foraging and potential nesting habitat will be removed as a result of the Project. Absent additional measures, if the site were subsequently occupied by this species, burrowing owl burrows could be crushed or destroyed by vehicles during construction activities. Burrowing owl is not a covered species under the MBHCP. Provided that the measures recommended in Section 4.2 are implemented, impacts can be reduced to "less than significant".

Swainson's hawk and White-tailed kite

No nesting opportunities for these species were present on the Project site. Although annual grassland is generally considered suitable foraging habitat, the Project site has been disturbed frequently in the past by disking, fire, illegal trash dumping, and off-road vehicle trespass. Although noise, dust, and general disturbance from construction activities could indirectly affect foraging raptors such as Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite, these species are highly mobile and able to access other higher quality foraging opportunities in the vicinity of the Project site. Given the low quality of the grassland present, the loss of this marginal foraging habitat for these species would not be significant. In addition, no direct impacts to individuals are anticipated.

San Joaquin Kit Fox and American Badger

The Project provides suitable denning habitat for San Joaquin kit fox. Several suitably sized holes were observed during the survey effort and 8 known dens were found. Individual kit fox could use any of the dens identified on the site. If the site is occupied by SJKF, Project activities could result in harm or injury to kit fox that would constitute a significant impact.

Measures described in Section 4.2, below, are intended to avoid, minimize, and reduce the potential for these effects to occur, reducing the potential to less than significant. Implementation of measures required per the MBHCP to protect SJKF will additionally result in minimizing effects to burrowing owls due to overlapping habitat requirements and American badger due to the overlap in badger burrows and SJKF den size. Neither burrowing owl nor American badger are covered species under the MBHCP; however, both species will benefit from measures implemented to avoid direct and indirect "take" of San Joaquin kit fox.

Nesting and Migratory Birds

The Project site contains remnant trees and minimal shrubs which can be used by nesting birds. The annual grassland present is suitable for ground nesting birds, but frequent disturbance reduces that suitability. Birds nesting on or in the immediate vicinity of the Project site could be disturbed if the project is conducted during nesting season when active nests are present. If these nests are disturbed to the extent that eggs are destroyed, young are injured or killed, or adults abandon the nests, a violation of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code could result. Measures described in Section 4.2 will reduce these potential impacts to "less than significant."

2. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or the USFWS?

No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations; or by the CDFW or the USFWS will be disturbed by the proposed Project; therefore, no further measures are recommended.

3. Would the project 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?

The proposed Project does not propose any disturbance to wetland vegetation. No wetland features or vegetation indicative of wetland conditions were observed during the field survey nor were any identified during the literature review. Consequently, no impacts will occur as a result of the development of the Project.

4. **Would the project 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?**

Wildlife corridors can be defined as connections between wildlife blocks that meet specific habitat needs for species movement generally during migratory periods, but seasonally as well. Wildlife corridors generally contain habitat dissimilar to the surrounding vicinity and include examples such as riparian areas along rivers and streams, washes, canyons, or otherwise undisturbed areas within urbanization. Corridor width requirements can vary based on the needs of the species utilizing them. The Project site is an isolated and relatively small parcel of disturbed annual grassland habitat. No impacts are expected; consequently, no additional measures are included.

5. **Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

Other than the potential for SJKF, which are addressed under the MBHCP, there are no biological resources on the site which are separately protected by local policies. Therefore, conflicts with local policies will not occur.

6. **Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.**

Due to the presence of potential and known SJKF dens on the project site, specific procedures for den activity monitoring and excavation are required by the MBHCP prior to initial ground disturbance near dens. With the proposed Project mitigation through participation in the MBHCP, the Project is not known to conflict with any other Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

4.2 Recommendations

The following measures are intended to reduce identified potential effects to special-status species as a result of the Project; and are intended to result in compliance with applicable state and/or federal statutes and regulations protecting biological resources.

BIO-1: Biologists conducting activities in measures BIO-2 through BIO-4 shall submit resumes to the City of Bakersfield for approval prior to implementation of these measures. Resumes shall document sufficient species-specific experience to show that each biologist is qualified to determine presence of that species. At a minimum, approved biologists shall have obtained a bachelor's degree in biological or environmental sciences or show equivalent experience, have 2 years of experience detecting the target species, and have experience in construction monitoring sufficient to understand potential effects on the species for which they are approved.

BIO-2: Prior to construction, all requirement of the MBHCP, including all applicable species-specific measures shall be implemented, in accordance with the MBHCP permits.

- The project proponent shall pay fees pursuant to the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit, which includes coverage for the San Joaquin kit fox. The payment of development impact fees is considered adequate mitigation under the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit to minimize impacts on special-status species. The fees are placed in an account for habitat acquisition and management to be used by the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan Trust Group. Upon the payment of this fee as specified by the City of Bakersfield, the project applicant will become a sub-permittee and will be allowed the incidental take of the species in accordance with state and federal endangered species laws and mitigation requirements of all parties, including state, federal, and local (City of Bakersfield and Kern County 1994, Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2013-058-04)
- A biological clearance survey is required for San Joaquin kit fox. The survey shall be completed according to the requirements of the MBHCP and CESA ITP.
- If known, active, or natal San Joaquin kit fox dens are identified during the survey, minimization measures identified in the CESA ITP for den avoidance must be demonstrated (MBHCP CESA ITP Condition of Approval 7.5). If dens cannot be avoided, monitoring and den excavation as described in MBHCP CESA ITP Condition of Approval 7.6 will be adhered to.

BIO-3: Surveys to detect burrowing owls should be conducted no more than 30 days prior to any ground disturbance activities on the Project site and can be conducted concurrently with the pre-activity survey required per the MBHCP. Occupied burrows should not be disturbed during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31) unless a qualified biologist verifies through non-invasive methods that either: (1) the birds have not begun egg-laying and incubation; or (2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. If burrowing owls are observed using burrows during the surveys, owls shall be excluded from all active burrows through the use of exclusion devices placed in occupied burrows in accordance with CDFW protocols (CDFG 2012), *Staff report on burrowing owl mitigation*, shall be implemented. In such case, exclusion devices shall not be placed until the young have fledged and are no longer dependent upon the burrow, as determined by a qualified biologist. Specifically, exclusion devices, utilizing one-way doors, shall be installed in the entrance of all active burrows. The devices shall be left in the burrows for at least 48 hours to ensure that all owls have been excluded from the burrows. Each of the burrows shall then be excavated by hand and refilled to prevent reoccupation. Exclusion shall continue until the owls have been successfully excluded from the site, as determined by a qualified biologist.

BIO-4: To ensure compliance with MBTA, a qualified avian biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey no more than 14 days prior to the commencement of construction during nesting season (February 1 to August 31) to identify any active nests present within the proposed work area. If active nests are found, initial ground disturbance shall be postponed or halted within a buffer area, established by the qualified avian biologist, that is suitable to the particular bird species

and location of the nest, until juveniles have fledged or the nest has been abandoned, as determined by the biologist. The construction avoidance area shall be clearly demarcated in the field with highly visible construction fencing or flagging, and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas.

5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Project will not impact special-status plants as the entire site has had and continues to have disturbance. Ruderal weedy species dominate the Project site and no special-status plant species were observed during the field surveys.

While no burrowing owls were observed, implementation of pre-activity clearance surveys and avoidance of active nests during nesting season, combined with implementation of measures included in Section 4.2 will reduce impacts to this species to less than significant.

While no nesting birds were observed during 2021 field surveys, conducting pre-activity nesting bird surveys and implementing appropriate avoidance measures will reduce potential impacts to this species to less than significant.

While no SJKF were observed, several potential and known dens were discovered, and SJKF are known to occur in the area; therefore, by following the requirements of the MBHCP, potential impacts to SJKF can be reduced to a level of less than significant.

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Appendix A
Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Evaluation

Table A-1: Special-status Plants That May Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Site

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]**Status Fed/State/CNPS**	**Brief Description**	**Known Records**	**Potential to Occur**
Astragalus hornii var. *hornii* Horn's milk vetch	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Fabaceae found in meadows and seeps, and on playas and lake margins on alkaline soils between 197 and 2,789 feet (60–850 meters) in elevation. Known from occurrences in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, the Tehachapi Mountains and the Western Transverse Ranges in Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties. Blooming period: May - October	Closest known record is a historic record from 1962, 1.5 miles southeast of the project. Several recent records from 2003 and 2013 are associated with the Kern River. The nearest recent record is 7.5 miles northwest of the project site (2003).	No Horn's milk vetch was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity are not alkaline and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. No habitat features typical of known occurrences are present and it is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Atriplex cordulata var. *cordulata* Heartscale	S/-/1B.2	Herbaceous annual in the Chenopodiaceae found in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grasslands in sandy, saline or alkaline soils below 1,837 feet (560 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Great Central Valley from Kern County north to southern Butte County. Blooming period: April - October	Closest known record is a historic record from 1983, 11 miles southwest of the project. Record was associated with Old Rim Ditch, which appears to be covered by extensive agriculture according to 2012 aerial photography. No other records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No annual *Atriplex* were observed during the fieldwork conducted and site conditions are highly impacted. No occurrence is expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Atriplex coronata var. *vallicola* Lost Hills crownscale	S/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Chenopodiaceae that occurs between 164 and 2,083 feet (50–635 meters) in elevation in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools on alkaline soils. Known from occurrences in Southeastern San Joaquin Valley from Kern County north to Fresno County and on the Carrizo Plain. Blooming period: April - September	Closest known record is a historic record from 1995, just over 10 miles southwest of the project site along Old River Road. No other records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No annual *Atriplex* were observed during the fieldwork conducted and site conditions are highly impacted. No occurrence is expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Atriplex tularensis Bakersfield smallscale	-/E/1A	Herbaceous annual in the Chenopodiaceae found in chenopod scrub, between 295 and 656 feet (90–200 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. Blooming period: June - October	Closest known record is a historic record from 1921, 1 mile southeast of the project site. The species has been extirpated at this location according to a record update (1983). No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site and the CNPS classifies this species as presumed extinct.	No annual *Atriplex* were observed during the fieldwork conducted and site conditions are highly impacted. No occurrence is expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Calochortus striatus Alkali mariposa lily	S/-/1B.2	Bulbiferous perennial herb in the Liliaceae found in chaparral, chenopod scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps on alkaline, mesic soils, between 230 and 5,234 feet (70–1,595 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada in Kern County and the Mojave Desert in Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino Counties. Blooming period: April - June	Closest known record is just over 10 miles west of the project site, south of Taft Hwy and east of the West Side Freeway (2006). 500 plants were observed in the area at that time.	No alkali mariposa lily was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity are not alkaline and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. No habitat features typical of known occurrences are present and it is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Caulanthus californicus California jewelflower	E/E/1B.1	Herbaceous annual in the Brassicaceae that occurs between 200 and 3,281 feet (61–1,000 meters) in elevation on sandy soils in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands. Although many populations are thought to have been extirpated from the San Joaquin Valley, occurrences are known from Kern, Kings, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Fresno Counties. Blooming period: February - May	Closest known record is a historic record from 1900, 8 miles northwest of the project site. All historic occurrences on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley are presumed to be extirpated. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No California jewelflower was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity have been manipulated multiple times over the years and this species is not tolerant of the type of disturbance that has occurred. No suitable habitat is present and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]**Status** **Fed/State/CNPS**	**Brief Description**	**Known Records**	**Potential to Occur**
Chloropyron molle ssp. *hispidum* Hispid salty bird's-beak	S/-/1B.1	Hemiparasitic annual herb in the Orobanchaceae found on alkaline soils in meadows and seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grasslands below 509 feet (155 meters) in elevation. Blooming period: June - September	Two historic records were documented within 20 miles of the project site, the closest being 4.5 miles east, from the year 1946. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No hispid bird's-beak was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity are not alkaline and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. No habitat features typical of known occurrences are present and it is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Delphinium recurvatum Recurved larkspur	S/-/1B.2	Perennial herb in the Ranunculaceae occurring between 10 and 2,461 feet (3–750 meters) in elevation in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands on alkaline soils. Known to occur in the Mojave Desert and Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County north to Solano County; the South Inner Coastal Ranges from San Luis Obispo County north to Stanislaus County, and the Sacramento Valley from San Joaquin County north to Butte County. Blooming period: March - June	Closest known record is a historic record from 1935, 5.5 miles northwest of the project site. Several recent occurrences have been reported, the closest being 12 miles west of the project along Taft Highway (2009).	No recurved larkspur was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity are not alkaline and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. No habitat features typical of known occurrences are present and it is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Diplacus pictus Calico monkeyflower	-/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Phrymaceae found in broadleafed upland forest and cismontane woodlands between 328 and 4,691 feet (100–1430 meters) in elevation in Kern and Tulare counties. Blooming period: March - May	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 5.5 miles northwest, from the year 1935. No recent records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No calico monkeyflower was observed during the fieldwork conducted. No suitable habitat for this species is present and soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years. This species is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Eremalche parryi ssp. *kernensis* Kern mallow	E/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Malvaceae that occurs between 230 and 4,232 feet (70–1,290 meters) in elevation in chenopod scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Distribution includes Kern and Tulare Counties and the Inner South Coast Ranges in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Blooming period: January (February) March - May	Closest known record is a historic record from 1998, 6 miles south of the project site. The closest recent record is from 2020, 9.5 miles west of the project site. Several other records, recent and historic, have been reported between 10 and 20 miles from the project site.	No Kern mallow was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity have been manipulated multiple times over the years and no habitat features typical of known occurrences are present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Eriastrum hooveri Hoover's eriastrum	D/-/4.2	Annual herb in the Polemoniaceae that occurs between 164 and 3,002 feet (50–915 meters) in elevation in pinyon-juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands, occasionally on gravelly soils. Known to occur in the southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern and Fresno Counties and on the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo County. Blooming period: March - July	Closest known record was documented 7.8 miles north of the project site (date unknown).	No Hoover's eriastrum was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years and no habitat features typical of known occurrences are present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated.
Eschscholzia lemmonii ssp. *kernensis* Tejon poppy	-/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Papaveraceae that occurs between 525 and 3,281 feet (160–1000 meters) in elevation in chenopod scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Known from occurrences in the southern Sierra Nevada Foothills and the southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. Blooming period: (February) March - May	One historic occurrence was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 8.5 miles northeast, from the year 1937. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No Tejon poppy was observed during the fieldwork conducted. The Project site is below the published elevation range for this species. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years and no habitat features typical of known occurrences are present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]**Status** **Fed/State/CNPS**	**Brief Description**	**Known Records**	**Potential to Occur**
Imperata brevifolia California satintail	-/-/2B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb in the Poaceae found in chaparral, Coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps on alkaline soils, and riparian scrub usually found on mesic soils below 3,986 feet (1,215 meters) in elevation. Known from occurrences in the Eastern San Joaquin Valley from Kern County to Fresno County. It is more widespread in the southwestern portion of the state. Blooming period: September - May	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 4.5 miles north, from the year 1896. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No California satintail was observed during the fieldwork conducted. No alkaline or mesic conditions typical of known occurrences for this species were present and soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Lasthenia glabrata ssp. *coulteri* *Coulter's goldfields*	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae found between 3 and 4,003 feet (1–1,220 meters) in elevation in marshes, swamps, playas, and vernal pools. Known from occurrences in the Transverse Ranges in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties, the Peninsular Ranges in San Diego, Orange and Riverside Counties, the South Coast in Los Angeles County, the Northern Channel Islands, the South Coast Ranges in San Luis Obispo County, the Tehachapi Mountains in Kern County, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern, Tulare, and Merced Counties. Blooming period: February - June	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 12 miles southwest, from the year 1963. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No Coulter's goldfields was observed during the fieldwork conducted. No suitable habitat for this species is present and soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years. This species is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Layia leucopappa Comanche Point layia	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae found in chenopod scrub, and valley and foothill grassland between 328 and 1,148 feet (100–350 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern County. Blooming period: March - April	Closest known record is a historic record from 1935, 7 miles northeast of the project site. The closest recent record is one of several in the foothills 15 miles southeast of the project site (2016)	No Comanche Point layia was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years and no habitat features typical of known occurrences are present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Monolopia congdonii San Joaquin woolly-threads	E/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Asteraceae found between 197 and 2,625 feet (60–800 meters) in elevation in chenopod scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands, on sandy soils. Known to occur in the San Joaquin Valley from Kern County north to San Benito County, and the Carrizo Plain in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Blooming period: February - May	Closest known record is a historic record from 1935, 8.5 miles northwest of the project site. The closest recent record is from 2013, 11 miles west of the project site near the Kern River.	No San Joaquin woolly-threads was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Although suitable soils are present, the site has been manipulated multiple times over the years and habitat features typical of known occurrences are no longer present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Navarretia setiloba Piute Mountains navarretia	S/-/1B.1	Herbaceous annual in the Polemoniaceae found on clay or gravelly loam soils in cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands from 1,001 and 6,890 feet (305–2,100 meters) in elevation. Known from occurrences in the Southern Sierra Nevada in Kern and Tulare Counties. Blooming period: April - June	Closest known record is a historic record from 1937, 8.5 miles northeast of the project site. Occurrence is presumed extirpated. The closest recent record is from 2011, 15 miles east of the project site, in the foothills between Bena Rd and SR-58.	No Piute Mountain navarretia was observed during the fieldwork conducted. The Project site is below the published elevation range for this species and soils are not consistent with reported occurrences. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years and this species is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Opuntia basilaris var. *treleasei* Bakersfield cactus	E/E/1B.1	Perennial stem succulent in the Cactaceae found in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grasslands between 394 and 1,804 feet (120–550 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in the Southeast San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada Foothills in Kern County. Blooming period: April – May (identifiable year-round)	Closest known record is from 2019, 3.6 miles southeast of the project site, northeast of the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Buena Vista Boulevard. Many more records have been reported northeast of the project site, the closest being 9.5 miles away (2018).	No Bakersfield cactus was observed during the fieldwork conducted. This species is a perennial succulent and was not observed. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**

Scientific Name Common Name	[1]Status Fed/State/CNPS	Brief Description	Known Records	Potential to Occur
Puccinellia simplex California alkali grass	-/-/1B.2	Annual herb in the Poaceae found in chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools; in alkaline, vernally-mesic sinks, flats, and lake margins between 6 to 3,051 feet (2–930 meters) in elevation. Known from locations in Alameda, Butte, Contra Costa, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Napa, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo Counties. This species is presumed extirpated in Kings County. Blooming period: March - May	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 8 miles southeast, from the year 1987. No recent records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No California alkali grass was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years and no habitat features typical of known occurrences are present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Stylocline citroleum Oil neststraw	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae found in chenopod scrub, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands on clay soils between 164 and 1,312 feet (50–400 meters) in elevation. Known from locations in Kern and San Diego Counties. Blooming period: March - April	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 9.5 miles northeast, from the year 1935. No recent records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No oil neststraw was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Soils on the Project site are sandy and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. No habitat features typical of known occurrences are present and it is not expected. No significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Stylocline masonii Mason's neststraw	S/-/1B.1	Annual herb in the Asteraceae found in chenopod scrub and pinyon and juniper woodland on sandy soils between 328 and 3,937 feet (100–1,200 meters) in elevation. Known to occur in Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Blooming period: March - May	One historic record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 13 miles northwest, from the year 1937. No recent records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No Mason's neststraw was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Although suitable soils are present, the site has been manipulated multiple times over the years and habitat features typical of known occurrences are no longer present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**
Tortula californica California screw-moss	S/-/1B.2	Moss in the Pottiaceae found in chenopod scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands on arid soil and rock below 4,790 feet (1,460 meters) in elevation. This moss is widely distributed but only known from 15 USGS quadrangles in California. Known to occur in Kern, Los Angeles, Monterey, Modoc, Riverside, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Ventura Counties, and Santa Rosa Island. Blooming period: N/A	One record was documented within 20 miles of the project site, 12 miles northeast, and is undated. No other records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No California screw moss was observed during the fieldwork conducted. Although potential suitable arid soils are present, the site has been manipulated multiple times over the years and habitat features typical of known occurrences are no longer present. It is not expected, and no significant impacts are anticipated. **No Potential**

[1]STATUS: Federal and State Listing Code

D	Delisted
E	Federally or State-listed Endangered
S	BLM Sensitive Species
T	Federally or State-listed Threatened
-	No listing status

CNPS

1A	Plants presumed extirpated in California, and either rare or extinct elsewhere
1B.1	Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously threatened in California
1B.2	Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly threatened in California
1B.3	Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; not very endangered in California
2B.1	Plants considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; seriously threatened in California

Sources: Jepson Flora Project (2021), CNPS (2021), Calflora (2021), CNDDB (2021) unless otherwise noted

Table A-2: Special-status Wildlife That May Occur in the Vicinity of the Project Site.

Scientific Name Common Name	[1]Status Federal/State	General Habitat	Known Records	Potential to Occur
Invertebrates				
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	-/C	Occupies grasslands and shrublands. They are social insects that live in annual colonies. Nests are often underground in abandoned rodent burrows, rock piles, or dead tree cavities. Historically found primarily in the Central Valley, now this species is most commonly found in the southern California coastal areas; a strong affinity for milkweed as a food source.	Closest known record is from 2020, 0.8 miles west of the project site. All other records within 20 miles of project site are historic.	No likely nests detected on site during reconnaissance survey. No milkweed or other flowering plants likely to support this species were detected on site. **No Potential**
Branchinecta lynchi Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T/-	Occupies a variety of different vernal pool habitats, from small, clear, sandstone rock pools to large, turbid, alkaline, grassland valley floor pools. They are most frequently found in pools measuring less than 0.05 acres (0.02 hectares). Distribution in the Central Valley ranges from Shasta County to Tulare County. Kern County has no documented occurrences.	No CNDDB records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Danaus plexippus pop. 1 Monarch – California overwintering population	C/-	California overwinter populations travel between San Diego and British Colombia. Females deposit eggs on milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) throughout the migratory range.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1985, 7 miles northeast of project site. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No milkweed or other potential host plants detected on site during reconnaissance survey. **No Potential**
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	T/-	Central Valley riparian forest; nearly always found on or close to its host plant, elderberry (*Sambucus* species).	One possible record exists within 20 miles of the project site, 10 miles northeast, and is undated. No other records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. Species range was adjusted by USFWS (2006) to exclude Kern County. **No Potential**
Gonidea andulata Western ridged mussel	-/-	Occurs on the benthos of streams, rivers and lakes with substrates that vary from gravel to firm mud, and include at least some sand, silt or clay (Cosewic 2003)	No CNDDB records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Helminthoglypta callistoderma Kern shoulderband	-/-	Occurs in the lower Kern River Canyon, known only from Tulare and Kern Counties.	No CNDDB records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Lytta moesta Moestan blister beetle	-/-	Adults in this genus are often found on flowers, but there is no published information on habitat or floral visitation records for this species. Known from central California and has been collected in Kern and Tulare Counties.	Closest known record is a historic record from an unknown date, 8.2 miles northeast of project site. No modern records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, burning, and disking have created unsuitable conditions for this species. **No Potential**
Lyta morrisoni Morrison's blister beetle	-/-	Adults in this genus are often found on flowers, but there is no published information on habitat or floral visitation records for this species. Known from the southern Central Valley.	One record exists within 20 miles of the project site, 8.2 miles northeast, and is undated. No other records appear within 20 miles of the project site.	Soils on the Project site and in the vicinity have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, burning, and disking have created unsuitable conditions for this species. **No Potential**
Fish				
Hypomesus transpacificus Delta smelt	T/T	Found only in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Estuary in the interface between salt and freshwater.	No CNDDB records exist for this species within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Amphibians				

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]Status Federal/State	General Habitat	Known Records	Potential to Occur
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	T/-	Found in dense, shrubby riparian vegetation associated with deep (0.6 meters; 2 feet), still or slow-moving water; arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) seems to be most suitable, but cattails (*Typha* sp.) and bulrushes (*Scirpus* sp.) also provide good habitat.	No CNDDB records exist for this species within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Spea hammondii Western spadefoot (toad)	-/CSC	Central valley and adjacent foothills, Coast Ranges from Point Conception south to the Mexico border; valley-foothill grasslands and valley-foothill hardwood, shallow temporary pools used for breeding, below 4,472 feet (1,363 meters).	Closest known record is from 2008, 7.6 miles northwest of the project site, near the Allen Rd crossing of the Kern River. Several other records exist on the west and northwest outskirts of Bakersfield, 8 to 15 miles from the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Reptiles				
Anniella grinnelli Bakersfield legless lizard (including *Anniella* sp. [California legless lizard])	-/CSC	Inhabits loose soil with plant cover. Occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of arid scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with shrub cover or sycamores and/or cottonwood tree cover. Has been documented in undeveloped or lightly developed areas within Bakersfield city limits and unincorporated areas of Bakersfield.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1934, 4.5 miles north of the project site. Closest modern record is from 2013, 6.7 miles north of the project site. Several more records exist within 10 miles of the project site, north of the Kern River.	The Project site lacks suitable cover; soils and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Cover consisted of trash and sparse grasses. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, and disking reduce the potential for this species. Although it is known to occur in and near the City of Bakersfield in impacted situations, the soils at known locations have not undergone the extensive surface manipulation observed on the Project site. **No Potential**
Arizona elegans occidentalis California glossy snake	-/CSC	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, and chaparral. Appears to prefer microhabitats of open areas and areas with soil loose enough for easy burrowing. Occurs from the eastern part of the San Francisco Bay Area south to northwestern Baja California. It is absent along the Central Coast.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1946, 0.5 miles southeast of the project site. Numerous historic records exist within 20 miles of the project site. Closest modern record is from 2013, 15 miles northeast of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Emys marmorata Western pond turtle	-/CSC	Completely aquatic requiring calm waters such as pools or streams with vegetation banks or logs for basking. Will utilize upland habitat up to about 0.3 miles (0.5 kilometers) from water.	Closest known record is a historic record of unknown date, 9.2 miles northwest of the project site. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. **No Potential**
Gambelia sila Blunt-nosed leopard lizard	E/E, SFP	Found only in the San Joaquin Valley, adjacent Carrizo Plain, Elkhorn Plain, Cuyama Valley, and Panoche Valley; inhabits sparsely vegetated plains, lower canyon slopes, on valley floors, and washes; open grassland, saltbush scrub, and alkali sink are more common habitat types.	Closest known record is a historic record from an unknown date, 8.9 miles west of the project site. The closest modern record is from 2006, 9 miles northeast of the project site, just south of Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery. Several more records exist outside of 10 miles from the project site, in relatively undeveloped land to the west, northeast, and southeast.	Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, and disking reduce the potential for this species. Site is a relatively small patch of undeveloped land that is isolated from all known or potentially occupied natural lands by urban development and intensive agriculture. **No Potential**
Masticophis flagellum ruddocki San Joaquin coachwhip	-/CSC	Found in the San Joaquin Valley in open, dry habitats. Associated with valley grassland and saltbush scrub habitats containing small mammal burrows which are used for refugia and oviposition sites.	Closest known record is 5.7 miles west of the project site along Panama Ln. All other records exist outside of 10 miles from the project site.	The Project site lacked suitable cover. Soils have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, and disking reduce the potential for this species. Site is isolated from all known or potentially occupied natural lands by urban development and intensive agriculture. **No Potential**
Phrynosoma blainvillii Coast horned lizard	-/CSC	Inhabits valley-foothill hardwood, coniferous and riparian, as well as pine-cypress, juniper, and annual grasslands, in Sierra Nevada below 3,937 feet (1,200 meters) and in mountains of Southern California and into the adjacent valleys.	Closest known record is 9.9 miles west of the project site, south of Taft Hwy and east of SR 5.	The Project site lacks suitable cover. Soils are very dry and have been manipulated multiple times over the years. Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, and disking reduce the potential for this species. Site is isolated from all known populations and natural lands by urban development and intensive agriculture. **No Potential**

Scientific Name Common Name	[1]Status Federal/State	General Habitat	Known Records	Potential to Occur
Thamnophis gigas Giant garter snake	T/T	Highly aquatic; usually found in areas of freshwater marsh low-gradient streams, drainage canals and irrigation ditches, especially those associated with rice farming; historically occurred in the San Joaquin Valley from the vicinity of Sacramento southward to Buena Vista and the Tulare Lake Basin; currently known from near Chico, Butte County, to the vicinity of Burrel, Fresno County.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1949, 15 miles west of the project site. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat for this species was present on the project site. Species has been extirpated from Kern County. **No Potential**
Birds				
Agelaius tricolor Tricolored blackbird	-/T	Forages in grasslands, wetlands, rice fields, croplands, and weedy uplands dominated by mustards and thistles, etc.; breeds in marshes containing heavy growth of bulrushes, cattails, and blackberries; found throughout the Central Valley.	Closest known record is 5.3 miles southeast of the project site in agriculture land near the intersection of Adobe Rd and Bear Mountain Blvd (2012). Several more records exist outside of 10 miles from the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species. The site represents unlikely foraging habitat. **No Potential**
Ardea alba Great Egret	-/-	Common throughout California. Associated habitats include fresh and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow0moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures.	Closest known record is 3.9 miles southeast of the project site in a pond southeast from the corner of Cottonwood Rd and Buena Vista Blvd (date unknown). No other records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species. Although occasional foraging may occur, the foraging value is marginal. **No Potential**
Athene cunicularia Burrowing owl	-/CSC	Inhabit dry, open grasslands, rolling hills, desert floors, prairies, savannas, agricultural land, and other areas of open, bare ground. These owls will also inhabit open areas near human habitation, such as airports, golf courses, shoulders of roads, railroad embankments, and the banks of irrigation ditches and reservoirs.	Closest known record is 2.1 miles southeast of the project site north of the intersection of Cottonwood Rd and Panama Rd (2007). Over 30 records exist withing 10 miles of the site.	The site represented suitable habitat for the species. Focused surveys were conducted for burrowing owl with negative results. Due to the presence of suitable burrows on site and records of burrowing owl in the region, there is a potential that burrowing owl occupation could occur. See further discussion in Section 3.2.2. **High Potential**
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	-/T	Riparian and sometimes large, isolated trees used for nesting; grasslands and agricultural lands used for foraging; in California, breeds primarily in the Sacramento Valley, with occasional nesting to the south through Kern County; migrate through the Central and San Joaquin Valleys to their wintering grounds in South America.	Closest known record is a nesting location 1.2 miles south of the project site along SR 99 south of Taft Hwy (2019). Several other nesting locations have been documented in CNDDB in Tulare County, Kings County and Kern County.	No potential nest trees were observed on the Project site. The site represented marginal foraging habitat given the surface impacts and likely low density of prey. See further discussion in Section 3.2.2. **Low Potential**
Charadrius nivosus nivosus Western snowy plover	T/CSC	Nests, feeds, and takes cover on sandy or gravelly beaches along the coast, on estuarine salt ponds, alkali lakes, and at the Salton Sea. On the Pacific coast, it nests on barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, and river bars. Threatened status applies only to Pacific coastal population.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1912, 13 miles southwest of the project site in the historic Buena Vista Lake Basin. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	Project site is outside of the range of the Pacific coastal region. No suitable nesting habitat is present on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat and there is no likely nesting habitat remaining within at least 20 miles of the Project site; therefore, foraging is unlikely. **No Potential**
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis Western yellow-billed cuckoo	T/E	Nests in walnut and almond orchards in California, natural nesting habitat is in cottonwood-tree willow riparian forest. Known populations of breeding western yellow-billed cuckoo are several disjunct locations in California, Arizona, and western New Mexico.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1921, 13 miles southwest of the project site in the historic Buena Vista Lake Basin. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species nor is there any suitable nesting habitat within at least 20 miles. Although this species occurred historically near Buena Vista Lake, suitable habitat is no longer present at that location. **No Potential**
Egretta thula Snowy egret	-/-	Common throughout California. Associated habitats include fresh and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow0moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures.	Closest known record is 3.9 miles southeast of the project site in a pond southeast from the corner of Cottonwood Rd and Buena Vista Blvd (date unknown). No other records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species. Although occasional foraging may occur, the foraging value is marginal. **No Potential**
Elanus leucurus White-tailed kite	-/SFP	Associated habitats include open grasslands, savannahs, agriculture, wetlands, oak woodland and riparian areas with associated open space.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1992, 9.3 miles northwest of the project site, near the Kern River. No other records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species. The site represents marginal foraging habitat due to the high degree of disturbance, but this species may occasionally forage onsite. See discussion Section 3.2.2. **Low Potential**

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]Status Federal/State	General Habitat	Known Records	Potential to Occur
Empidonax traillii extimus Southwestern willow flycatcher	E/E	Breeds in dense riparian tree and shrub habitat associated with rivers, lakes, and other wetlands.	No CNDDB records were found for this species within 20 miles of the Project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species and there is no likely nesting habitat within at least 20 miles; therefore, foraging is unlikely. **No Potential**
Eremophila alpestris actia California horned lark	-/-	Associated habitats include level or rolling short-grass prairie, bald hills, mountain meadows, open coastal plains, fallow grain fields, alkali flats. Geographic range is the coastal region of the state, chiefly Sonoma County southeast to Mexican boundary in San Diego County; San Joaquin Valley south to northern Kern County merges into *E. a. ammophila*, which occurs through most of Kern County, northern (interior) Los Angeles County, and the Mojave Desert (Grinnell and Miller 1944).	Closest CNDDB record is 9.5 miles northwest of the project site, south from the intersection of Stockdale Hwy and Heath Rd (2006). Record notes the observation of foraging adults but no nesting activity.	Although disturbed grassland was present, the Project site is well west and south of the published range for this subspecies, and it is not expected. **No Potential**
Plegadis chihi White-faced ibis	-/-	More common in southern California, rare in Central Valley. Associated habitats include fresh emergent wetland, shallow lacustrine waters, muddy ground of wet meadows, and irrigated or flooded pastures and croplands.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1922, 13 miles southwest of the project site in the historic Buena Vista Lake Basin. No recent records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting or foraging habitat was present on the Project site for this species. **No Potential**
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus Yellow-headed blackbird	-/CSC	Species found in freshwater marshes during the summer. They prefer cattails, tule, and bulrush over water for breeding (Grinnell and Miller 1944). During migration and over winter months, the yellow-headed blackbird is found in open, cultivated lands, in fields, and in pastures with moist soils.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1923, 13 miles southwest of the project site in the historic Buena Vista Lake Basin. No recent records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable nesting habitat was present on the project for this species. This species is unlikely to forage on the Project site due to lack of nearby nesting habitat. **No Potential**
Mammals				
Ammospermophilus nelsoni San Joaquin antelope squirrel	-/T	Found in grasslands or open shrublands; formerly more extensive, current range includes southwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley and in adjacent valleys to the west.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1990, 12 miles west of the project site. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No San Joaquin antelope squirrels were observed during the field surveys and this species is not expected. The site is in an area where the species has been extirpated due to past impacts and surrounding development. **No Potential**
Dipodomys ingens Giant kangaroo rat	E/E	Western side of the San Joaquin Valley, including the Carrizo Plain and the Panoche Valley and foothills of the Inner South Coast Ranges; grassland and open shrub-land habitats with sparse vegetative cover and soils that are well-drained, fine sandy loams with gentle slopes.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1979 to 1986, 9.9 miles southwest of the Project site. One other occurrence was recorded 15 miles west of the Project site (date unknown).	No giant kangaroo rat burrows were observed during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report and this species is not expected. The site is outside of the published range of the species. **No Potential**
Dipodomys nitratoides brevinasus Short-nosed kangaroo rat	-/CSC	Gently sloping terrain and on hilltops in scrub vegetation (primarily saltbush); sometimes alkaline soils; populations are small and fragmented, occurring in Fresno, San Benito, Kings, and western Kern counties, Carrizo Plain Natural Area, and Cuyama Valley. This subspecies is generally considered to be limited to areas outside of the San Joaquin Valley floor.	No observations are recorded in CNDDB within the 10-mile buffer. All records of this species in CNDDB are west of the California Aqueduct, concentrating in grasslands and saltbush scrub areas north of Taft, and south of 7th Standard Road.	The Project site is outside of the known range of the subspecies. **No Potential**
Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides Tipton kangaroo rat	E/E	Found in arid communities on the valley floor portions of Kern, Tulare, and Kings counties in scrub and grassland communities on level to near-level terrain; alluvial fans (fine sands and sandy loams) with sparse grasses and woody vegetation such as iodine bush, saltbush, seep weed, and mesquite.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1990, 5.5 miles northwest of the project site. Closest recent record is 7.9 miles southeast of the Project site at the corner of Sycamore Road and North Wheeler Ridge Road.	No burrows potentially occupied by Tipton kangaroo rat were observed during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report. **No Potential**
Eumops perotis californicus Western mastiff bat	-/CSC	Open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, annual and perennial grasslands, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban areas; roosts in cliff faces, as well as high buildings, trees, and tunnels; uncommon resident in southwestern San Joaquin Valley.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1918, 4.5 miles north of the project site. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable roosting habitat was present on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat. **No Potential**
Lasiurus cinereus Hoary bat	-/-	The most widespread North American bat. Winters along the coast and in southern California, breeding inland and north of the winter range. Breeding habitat includes all woodlands and forests with medium to large-size trees and dense foliage.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1894, 6.3 miles northwest of the project site. No modern records exist within 20 miles of the project site.	No suitable habitat was present on the project for this species. The site represents poor foraging habitat and it is not expected. **No Potential**

Scientific Name **Common Name**	[1]**Status** **Federal/State**	**General Habitat**	**Known Records**	**Potential to Occur**
Onychomys torridus tularensis Tulare grasshopper mouse	-/CSC	Found in valley grasslands habitats, blue oak savanna, desert associations dominated by annual grasses and California ephedra, alkali sink scrub, saltbush scrub, and upper Sonoran shrub associations, dominated by ephedra.	Closest known record is 11 miles east of the project site (date unknown). Several records occur between 10 and 20 miles from the project site.	Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, burning, and disking have reduced the potential for this species. Site is isolated from all known populations and natural lands by urban development and intensive agriculture. **No Potential**
Perognathus inornatus San Joaquin pocket mouse	-/-	Found in west-central California in the Upper Sacramento Valley, Tehama County, southward through the San Joaquin and Salinas valleys and contiguous areas to the Mojave Desert in Los Angeles, Kern and extreme western San Bernardino counties. Inhabits dry, open, grassy or weedy areas and annual grasslands, savannas, and desert-scrub associations with sandy washes or finely textured soils.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1999, 10.3 miles northeast of the project site. Several records occur between 10 and 20 miles from the project site.	Historical agricultural practices, off-road vehicle travel, trash dumping, and disking reduce the potential for this species. Site is isolated from all known populations and natural lands by urban development and intensive agriculture. **No Potential**
Sorex ornatus relictus Buena Vista Lake shrew	E/CSC	Formerly occupied marshlands of the San Joaquin Valley and the Tulare Basin. Its range has become much restricted due to the loss of lakes and sloughs in the area. It has been recorded from the Kern Lake Preserve area and the Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Current distribution is unknown but likely to be very restricted due to the loss of habitat.	Closest known record is 10.4 miles northwest of the project site along the Kern River (2000).	The site is outside the current known range of the species and no suitable habitat was present. **No Potential**
Taxidea taxus American badger	-/CSC	Uncommon resident found throughout California; in relatively low disturbance grassland and shrubland habitats in San Joaquin Valley.	Closest known record is a historic record from 1900, 0.5 miles north of the project site, which encompasses approximately 80 square miles. Closest modern record is 13 miles west of the project site.	No dens, burrows, or digs indicating presence of American badger occupation or foraging were observed during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report. Project site is isolated from known and potentially occupied lands by urban development and high traffic roadways. Although American badgers occur in similar habitats to those occupied by SJKF, this species is less tolerant of urban situations. **Low Potential**
Vulpes macrotis mutica San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF)	E/T	Found in scrub habitats, annual grassland, and valley sacaton grassland in the Central Valley and adjacent foothills and valleys, infrequently to the outer Coast Ranges; generally not found in densely wooded areas, wetland areas, or areas subject to frequent periodic flooding.	Several records are recorded in CNDDB within the 10-mile buffer. One record, which includes observations from 1998 to 2004, encompasses a portion of the project site. SJKF are known to inhabit developed, agricultural, and rural areas of Bakersfield and Kern County.	Suitable habitat for the species was present on the Project site. Several potential and known SJKF dens were identified during the fieldwork conducted for the preparation of this report. See discussion in Section 3.2.2. **Known**

[1]STATUS:

Federal
- E — Listed as Endangered
- T — Listed as Threatened
- C — Candidate for listing

State
- C — Candidate for Listing
- CSC — California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designated Species of Special Concern
- E — Listed as Endangered
- SFP — California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designated Fully Protected
- T — Listed as Threatened

Sources (unless otherwise noted): Zeiner (1988-1990), CNDDB (2021)

Appendix B
Photographs of the Project Site and Surrounding Area
April 2, 2021 and June 24, 2021

Photo B-1: Photograph of the project site taken at the northeast corner facing southwest (April 2, 2021)

Photo B-2: Photograph of the project site taken at the northwest corner facing southeast (April 2, 2021)

Photo B-3: Photograph of the project site taken at the southeast corner facing northwest (April 2, 2021)

Photo B-4: Photograph of the project site taken at the southern-most edge facing west (April 2, 2021)

Photo B-5: Photograph of a known den on project site with canid scat (April 2, 2021)

Photo B-6: Photograph of a disturbance on project site taken facing south (June 24, 2021)

Photo B-7: Photograph of a disturbance on project site taken facing west from east edge (June 24, 2021)

Appendix C
Plants and Wildlife Observed During Project Site Surveys
2021

Table C-1: Plant Observed During the Survey Conducted in 2021.

Scientific Name	Common Name
Apocynaceae	
Nerium oleander	Oleander*
Asteraceae	
Heterothica grandiflora	Telegraph weed
Isocoma acradenia	Alkali goldenbush
Boraginaceae	
Amsinckia sp.	Fiddleneck
Brassicaceae	
Hirschfeldia incana	Summer mustard*
Sisymbrium irio	London rocket*
Chenopodiaceae	
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle*
Crassulaceae	
Crassula connnata	Sand pygmy weed
Geraniaceae	
Erodium cicutarium	Red-stem filaree*
Poaceae	
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome*
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens*	Red brome*
Hordeum murinum ssp. *leporinum*	Farmer's foxtail*
Solanaceae	
Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed
Tamaricaceae	
Tamarix ramosissima	Tamarisk*

* Non-native

Table C-2: Wildlife Species Observed during the Surveys Conducted in 2021

Scientific Name	**Common Name**
Birds	
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard
Corvus corax	Common Raven
Eremophila alpestris	Horned lark
Haemorhous mexicanus	House finch
Passer domesticus	House sparrow
Petrochelidon pyrrhonota	Cliff swallow
Sturnella neglecta	Western meadowlark
Sturnus vulgaris	European starling
Zonotricha leucophrys	White-crowned sparrow
Mammals	
Canis lupus familiaris	Domestic dog
Lepus californicus	Black-tailed jackrabbit
Spermophilus beecheyi	California ground squirrel
Reptiles	
Uta stansburiana	Common side-blotched lizard

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BIOLOGICAL, INC.
Biological Sciences – Inventory, Permitting, and Planning

May 5, 2022

Ms. Patricia Newquist
Cornerstone Engineering, Inc.
5509 Young Street
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Subject: Majestic Gateway Project, Bakersfield, California

Ms. Newquist,

McCormick Biological, Inc. (MBI) conducted a biological reconnaissance survey for the Majestic Gateway Project on April 2, 2021. The results of that reconnaissance survey were used to prepare a Biological Resources Evaluation which relied on the conditions at that time for the analysis of biological resources. To the best of my knowledge, conditions observed during the April 2021 site visit were reflective of the existing conditions at the time that the EIR Notice of Preparation was issued in March of 2021.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Respectfully,

Randi McCormick

Randi McCormick
Principal Biologist

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May 5, 2022

Ms. Patricia Newquist
Cornerstone Engineering, Inc.
5509 Young Street
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Subject: Majestic Gateway Project, Bakersfield, California

Ms. Newquist,

McCormick Biological, Inc. (MBI) provided the Biological Resources Evaluation (April 2022, Revision 1) which analyzed the potential impacts on biological resources of the proposed project site. MBI has further reviewed the potential off-site construction areas near the intersection of South H Street and Hosking Avenue. A site visit was conducted at the off-site areas that may be subject impacts from project activities on May 5, 2022. The conditions in the identified areas are substantially the same as those on the Majestic Gateway Project site, and no additional biological resources beyond those analyzed in the original report would be expected.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Respectfully,

Randi McCormick

Randi McCormick
Principal Biologist

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