



H. T. HARVEY & ASSOCIATES

Ecological Consultants

**135 Osmun Avenue
Biotic Report**

Project #4235-01

Prepared for:

Robert Garavello
Flyline Investments LLC
421 E. 6th Street
Hanford, CA 93230

Prepared by:

H. T. Harvey & Associates

October 2018



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Preparers

Brian Boroski, Ph.D., Vice President

Amy Sparks, J.D., Senior Regulatory Specialist

Colin Wilkinson, M.S., Plant Ecologist

Jeff Zirpoli, M.S., Senior Wildlife Ecologist, Project Manager

Jessica Hughes, M.S., Technical Editor

Section 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

H. T. Harvey & Associates has prepared this biological resources impact analysis to: (1) document the existing environmental conditions and biological resources at 135 Osmun Avenue (i.e., project site) in Clovis, California, for a proposed multi-family development complex (project); (2) assess impacts of the project on these resources; and (3) recommend measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate project impacts. H. T. Harvey & Associates ecologists performed background research and conducted a field assessment of the project site to evaluate its suitability to support special-status species and to map habitats.

1.2 Location

The project site encompasses approximately 1.67 acres at 135 Osmun Avenue in Clovis, California, (Figure 1) on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 49208085, 49208074, and 49208086. The site is on the Clovis, California 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4 of Township 13S and Range 21E. The project site is bounded to the north by a ponding basin and on the remaining sides by residential development (Figure 2).

MADERA

FRESNO

Project Site

Clovis

41

168

180

Fresno



N:\Projects\4200\4235-01\Reports\Fig 1 Vicinity Map.mxd, trobinson

Figure 1. Vicinity Map

Osmun Ave Residential Development Biotic Report (4235-01)

October 2018

N:\Projects\4200\4235-01\Reports\Fig 2 Proposed Site Map v2.mxd

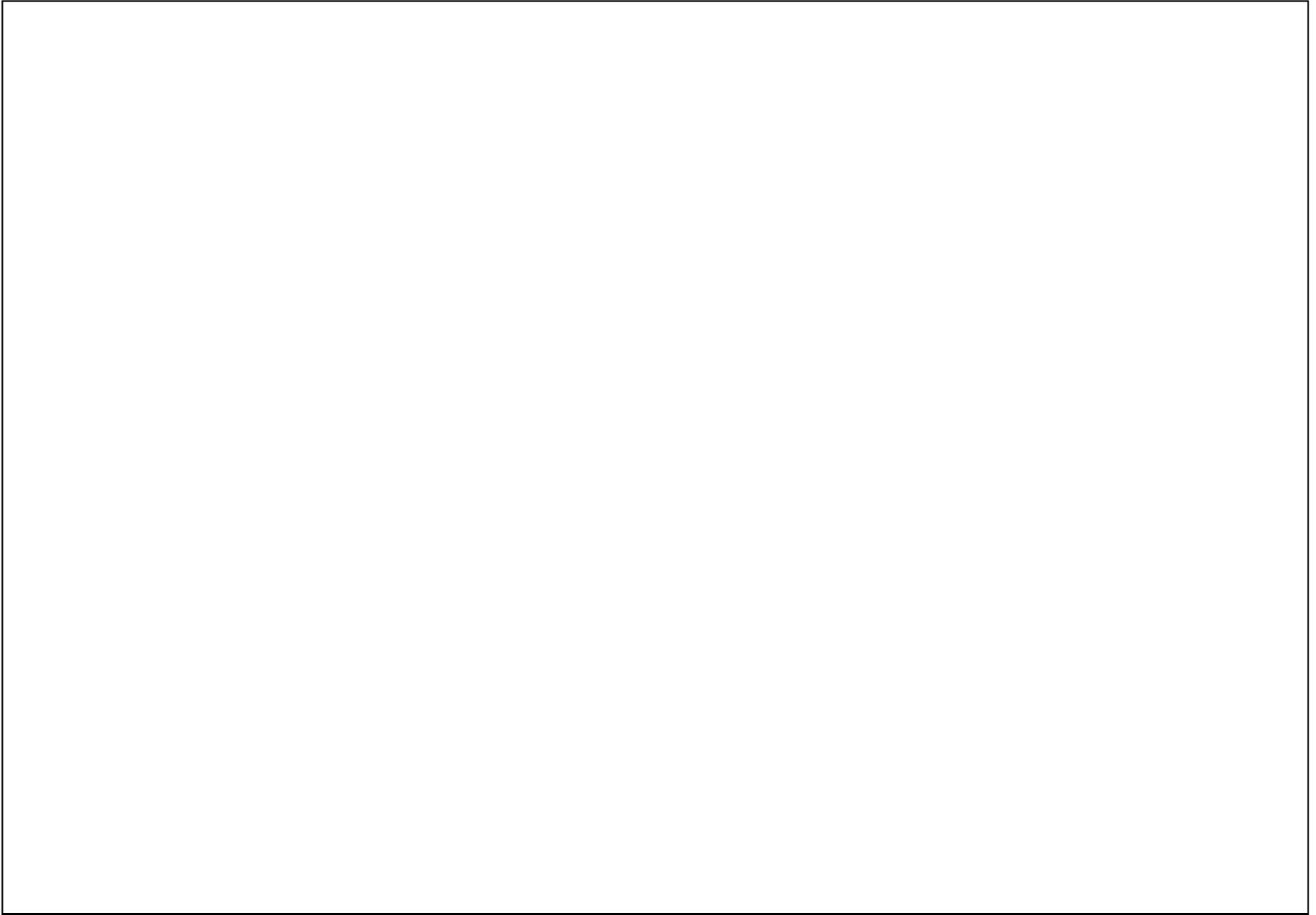


Figure 2. Proposed Site Map

Osmun Ave Residential Development Biotic Report (4235-01)
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1.3 Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction and development of a 45-unit multi-family housing development. The project site contains a vacant 1,888-square-foot church. The project vicinity is predominantly residential, with single-family homes immediately adjacent to the west and south and across the street to the east; to the north lies a ponding basin. The project would involve constructing and operating two apartment buildings (Building A and Building B) and a parking lot (Figure 2). Buildings A and B would include 12 and 33 units, respectively. The parking lot would contain 68 spaces, and driveways would provide access from Baron Avenue and Osmun Avenue. The project is anticipated to be completed in January 2020.

1.4 Regulatory Overview

1.4.1 Special-Status Species

Special-status species considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) include plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); animals listed as fully protected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)¹; animals designated as species of special concern by CDFW; plant species considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be categorized as a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1, 2, 3, or 4 (CNPS 2018a); plant species listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.); and locally significant species, which include species that may not be rare from a statewide perspective but are rare or uncommon in a local context, or are designated as such in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances.

ESA provisions protect federally listed threatened and endangered species (and their habitats) from unlawful *take*, which is defined as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any of the specifically enumerated conduct.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations define *harm* to mean “an act which actually kills or injures wildlife.” Such an act “may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering” (Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Section 17.3). USFWS regulates activities that may result in take of individuals. Proposed species are not afforded legal protection under ESA; however, proposed species typically receive special attention during the environmental review process.

CESA provides for the protection and preservation of native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, that are threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which if not halted would lead to a threatened or endangered designation. Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) prohibits *take* (i.e., “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill”) of any state-listed threatened or endangered species.

¹ Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Division 1, Subdivision 1, Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 5.93.

CDFW regulates activities that may result in take of individuals. Habitat degradation or modification is not expressly included in the definition of take under the CFGC. CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects under an Incidental Take Permit process (CFGC Section 2081). The process applies to species that are candidates for listing under CESA.

Additionally, the CFGC lists vertebrate species as “fully protected” if they are sufficiently rare or face possible extinction. As originally enacted, CFGC (Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], 5050 [reptiles and amphibians], and 5515 [fish]) states that fully protected species “may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock.” In 2011, a law was enacted that authorizes incidental take of fully protected species as long as any take authorization is issued in conjunction with the approval of a Natural Community Conservation Plan that covers the fully protected species. In addition, CDFW maintains a list of species of special concern for those species in which declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction. Species of special concern may receive special attention during environmental review, but do not have statutory protection.

1.4.2 Raptors and Migratory Birds

Raptors (e.g., eagles, hawks, and owls) and their nests are protected under both federal and State regulations. Birds of prey are protected under CFGC Section 3503.5, which states, “it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this Code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.” Disturbance that causes nest abandonment or loss of reproductive effort is considered take by CDFW. Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Migratory birds and their nests are protected under CFGC Sections 3513 and 3505, which states, “it is unlawful to take or possess and migratory nongame bird as designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act” and “it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto”.

1.4.3 Natural Communities

Sensitive natural communities have been designated by CDFW, and are tracked in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). These communities are of limited distribution statewide or within a county or region, and are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects. These communities may or may not contain special-status species. Project impacts on sensitive natural communities are assessed by agencies undertaking CEQA review.

1.4.4 Wetlands and Waters

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States. The phrase *waters of the United States* means the extent of geographic jurisdiction of the Section 404 program. The term includes such waters as rivers, lakes, streams, and most wetlands. Specifically, waters of the United States include traditional navigable waters (TNWs); interstate waters, including

interstate wetlands; the territorial seas; impoundments of TNWs, interstate waters, interstate wetlands, the territorial seas, and tributaries; tributaries of TNWs, interstate waters, or the territorial seas; and adjacent waters, including adjacent wetlands (Title 79, Federal Register [FR], Section 22188). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines wetlands as having three parameters: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology.

In nontidal waters of the United States, USACE jurisdiction extends to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), defined in 33 CFR 328.3 as “the line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation or the presence of litter and debris.” Identification of the OHWM is conducted by examining physical evidence of surface flow in the stream channel.

In addition, *other waters* could be determined to be waters of the United States on a case-specific basis by showing that, either alone or in combination with similarly situated other waters in the region, they have a significant nexus to a TNW, interstate water, or the territorial seas. A *significant nexus* is a chemical, physical, or biological connection between tributaries and downstream other waters. Hydrologic connection alone may not suffice in all cases to establish USACE jurisdiction, and there must be ecological significance of the connection such as influence on downstream water quality; transport of wood, sediment, nutrients, pesticides, or metals; functions such as storing and cleansing water; movement of organisms or their seeds or eggs; or hydrologic or biogeochemical interactions among surface or groundwater flows (79 FR 22188).

USACE jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act extends to the tributaries of navigable waters. Jurisdiction is recognized even when a tributary flows for a significant distance before reaching a navigable water; is several times removed (i.e., is tributary to more tributaries); or flows some distance through artificial features such as ditches, culverts, pipes, storm sewers, or ponds—waters with artificial features can be considered jurisdictional.

The State Water Quality Control Board is tasked with protecting the waters of the state under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. *Waters of the state* are defined as “all surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state of California.” The Water Boards’ responsibility for protecting waters of the state is further necessitated by statewide policies including the Wetlands Conservation Policy (Executive Order W-59-93), also known as the state’s “no net loss” policy for wetlands.

Ephemeral and intermittent streams, rivers, creeks, dry washes, sloughs, blue-line streams on USGS maps, and watercourses with subsurface flows fall under CDFW jurisdiction. Canals, aqueducts, irrigation ditches, and other means of water conveyance may also be considered streams if they support aquatic life, riparian vegetation, or stream-dependent terrestrial wildlife. Streams are defined in Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 1.72, as “a body of water that follows at least periodically or intermittently through a bed or channel having banks and that supports fish and other aquatic life. This includes watercourses having surface or subsurface flow that supports or has supported riparian vegetation.” Using this definition, CDFW extends its jurisdiction to encompass riparian habitats that function as a part of a watercourse. Section 2786 of the

CFGC defines riparian habitat as “lands which contain habitat which grows close to and which depends upon soil moisture from a nearby freshwater source.” The lateral extent of a stream and associated riparian habitat that would fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW can be measured in several ways, depending on the particular situation and the type of fish or wildlife at risk. At minimum, CDFW would claim jurisdiction over a stream’s bed and bank. Where riparian habitat is present, the outer edge of riparian vegetation is generally used as the line of demarcation between riparian and upland habitats.

Pursuant to CFGC Section 1603, CDFW regulates any project that will “substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the department, or use any material from the streambeds.” Section 1602 of the CFGC requires an entity to notify CDFW of any proposed activity that may modify a river, stream, or lake.

1.4.5 County Plans and Regulations

The County of Fresno’s (County’s) General Plan Policy OS-F.5 states “The County shall establish procedures for identifying and preserving rare, threatened, and endangered plant species that may be adversely affected by public or private development projects” (County of Fresno 2000a). This includes the requirement that a biological resource evaluation, based on appropriately timed reconnaissance be performed to determine the presence or absence, and consider potential for significant impacts on, special status plants, and the inclusion of feasible mitigation measures, or discussion of why none are necessary or feasible.

The County’s General Plan Policy OS-F.4 directs the County to ensure that landmark (also known as heritage) trees are preserved and protected whenever possible. Additionally, Policy OS-F.10 provides protection measures for oak woodlands. Policy OS-F.10 directs the County to make the Fresno County Oak Woodlands Management Guidelines (Policy OS-F.11) available to landowners located in oak woodland habitat (Fresno County 2000a). When building occurs in oak woodlands, these guidelines recommend measures such as preventing tree root compaction during construction by limiting heavy equipment in root zones, avoiding landscaping which requires irrigation within 10 feet of the trunk of an existing oak tree to prevent root rot, and considering replacing trees whose removal during construction is unavoidable.

However, the definition of a landmark tree is not provided, and the management guidelines are voluntary. As described in the County’s *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Fresno County General Plan*, Impact 4.9-4 regarding the potential loss of landmark oak trees includes the following three mitigation measures: (1) for Fresno County to define specifications for landmark tree identification (size and health); (2) replacing native oak and other landmark trees that are greater than 6 inches in diameter on an inch-for-inch basis; and (3) monitoring replacement trees for 5 years, including maintenance and replacement provisions (County of Fresno 2000b).

1.4.6 Habitat Conservation Plans

The project site overlaps with areas that are covered by Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E's) San Joaquin Valley Operation and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) (Jones and Stokes 2006). PG&E's HCP covers routine operations and maintenance activities, as well as minor new construction, on any PG&E gas and electrical transmission and distribution facilities, easements, private access routes, or lands owned by PG&E.

The proposed project is also located in the plan area of the Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley (Recovery Plan) (USFWS 1998), which covers 34 species of plants and animals that occur in the San Joaquin Valley. The ultimate goal of the Recovery Plan is to delist the 11 threatened or endangered species and ensure the long-term survival of the candidates and species of special concern. The plan has defined six key elements to achieve these two goals, one of which is habitat protection. The plan recommends that, whenever possible, blocks of conservation land and natural land should be connected through linkage.

Section 2.0 Methods

2.1 Background Review

Prior to performing the field survey, H. T. Harvey & Associates ecologists examined aerial imagery and USGS topographic maps of the project site and surrounding area. The ecologists also searched databases and reviewed other available information to compile a list of sensitive biological resources that could potentially occur at the project site. This included a search for special-status plants and animals and sensitive natural communities within 5 miles of the project site recorded in the CNDDDB (CDFW 2018a) (Figure 3). A list of federally listed species occurring in the Clovis USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle was obtained from USFWS (2018b). Other sources of species distribution information were obtained online (CDFW 2018b; Consortium of California Herbaria 2018; eBird 2018; CNPS 2018a), from museum records (Arctos 2018), and from publications (McGinnis 1984; Jennings and Hayes 1994; Sibley 2000; Stebbins 2003). The listing status and CRPR for each special-status plant were obtained from CNPS (2018a). Taxonomy and listing status of animals was based on CDFW (2018c). Nomenclature for amphibians and reptiles was based on information reported on CaliforniaHerps.com (2018). Wildlife community associations and resource requirements were obtained from multiple sources (Williams 1986; Jennings and Hayes 1994; Stebbins 2003; CDFW 2018b; eBird 2018; Pacific Southwest Research Station 2018).

2.2 Field Survey

H. T. Harvey & Associates ecologists conducted a field survey of the project site on September 19, 2018, to map the habitats present, determine whether any of these habitats could be considered sensitive, and assess the potential for the site to support special-status plant and animal species.

Section 3.0 Environmental Setting

3.1 Project Site Description

The 1.67-acre project site contains the vacant Clovis Foursquare Church building, a small vacant dwelling, landscaping, and a maintained vacant lot that is partially landscaped. The site is surrounded on three sides by residential development and abuts a ponding basin to the north. The project site is relatively flat and the elevation is approximately 365 feet above mean sea level. The climate is generally warm and dry in the summer, with cool, wet winters. The average daily high temperature for the project area is approximately 55°F in January and 98°F in July (PRISM Climate Group 2018). Winter precipitation is in the form of rain at the project site elevation. The soils mapped on site are sandy loam, alluvial fan deposits from weathered granitic bedrock (NRCS 2018).

3.2 Biotic Habitats on the Project Site

The two biotic habitats on the project site, developed and ruderal areas, are described below and depicted in Figure 4. Photos of the project site are provided in Appendix A.

3.2.1 Developed

The project site includes approximately 1.17 acres of developed lands (Figure 4). The currently developed areas on the site consist of buildings and other structures, paved and unpaved roads, and other landscaped areas. Non-native trees, including crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* sp.), shamel ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*), and maple (*Acer* sp.), occur on the western boundary of the site and are scattered within the site. Lawn areas are planted with Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). Ruderal upland weedy species, including crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.) and prostrate knotweed (*Polygonum aviculare*), are scattered throughout the developed areas.

3.2.2 Ruderal

The project site contains approximately 0.50 acre of ruderal lands (Figure 4). The ruderal areas of the project site are currently at the edge of roads or where landscaping/lawn is absent. Common plant species within the ruderal habitat include redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*), puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*), prostrate knotweed, and horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*).

Legend

 Project Site (1.67 ac)

Habitats

 Developed (1.17 ac)

 Ruderal (0.50 ac)

1st St

Osmun Ave

2nd St

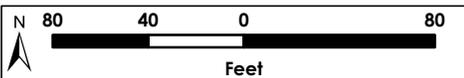


Figure 4. Biotic Habitats on the Project Site

Section 4.0 Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species

Tables 1 and 2, include all special-status plants and wildlife, respectively, that were identified during the background review as having the potential to occur on or in the vicinity of the project site. H. T. Harvey & Associates plant ecologist evaluated the potential for occurrence for special-status plant species within the project site based on habitat associations (i.e., vegetation, soils, hydrologic conditions, and elevational range), species' distribution patterns (i.e., restricted to limited areas or widely distributed), and distance to recent recorded locations. For example, if suitable vegetative and soil conditions were present on the site and there were recent records in the vicinity (i.e., within about 10 miles), but the project site was outside of the species' elevational range, the species was considered to be absent.

H. T. Harvey & Associates wildlife ecologists determined the potential for special-status wildlife to occur within the project site based on habitat associations, spatial distance to known populations, biogeography, and species distribution dispersion or limitations. For wildlife species, the occurrence of appropriate natural communities on the site and resources necessary for key life history functions were evaluated.

Table 1. Special-Status Plants Identified as Having the Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Name	Status ¹	Habitat Requirements, Elevation Range, and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Plants			
Lesser saltscare <i>Atriplex minuscula</i>	CRPR 1B.1	Sandy, alkaline substrates in chenopod scrub, playas, and valley and foothill grassland 49–656 feet May–October	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.
Hoover’s calycadenia <i>Calycadenia hooveri</i>	CRPR 1B.3	Rocky substrate in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland 213–985 feet July–September	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.
Tree-anemone <i>Carpenteria californica</i>	ST, CRPR 1B.2	Usually on granitic substrates in chaparral and cismontane woodland 1,115–4,396 feet April–July	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site, and the project site is outside the species’ elevation range.
Succulent owl’s clover <i>Castilleja campestris</i> var. <i>succulenta</i>	FT, SE, CRPR 1B.2	Vernal pools, often in acidic soils 164–2,461 feet March–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
California jewelflower <i>Caulanthus californicus</i>	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and upper montane coniferous forest 200–3,280 feet February–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Hoover’s cryptantha <i>Cryptantha hooveri</i>	CRPR 1A	Sandy substrates in valley and foothill grassland and inland dunes 29–492 feet April–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.

Name	Status ¹	Habitat Requirements, Elevation Range, and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Dwarf downingia <i>Downingia pusilla</i>	CRPR 2B.2	Mesic areas in valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools 3–1,460 feet March–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Hoover's eriastrum <i>Eriastrum hooveri</i>	CRPR 4.2	Sometimes occurs on gravelly substrates in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, or valley and foothill grassland 164–4,265 feet March–July	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Spiny-sepaled button-celery <i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools 260–3,200 feet April–June	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Slender-stalked monkeyflower <i>Erythranthe gracilipes</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest on decomposed granitic, often in disturbed areas (burned or graded) 1,640–4,265 feet April–June	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site, and the project site is outside the species elevation range.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop <i>Gratiola heterosepala</i>	SE, CRPR 1B.2	Mesic areas in clay soils, marshes, swamps, lake margins, and vernal pools 30–7,790 feet April–August	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Winter's sunflower <i>Helianthus winteri</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland in openings on relatively steep south-facing slopes, granitic, often rocky, often roadsides 410–1,510 feet January–December	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The project site is lower than the species' elevation range and is outside the species' regional distribution. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.

Name	Status ¹	Habitat Requirements, Elevation Range, and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
California satintail <i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	CRPR 2B.1	Mesic areas in chaparral, coastal scrub, Mojavean desert scrub, meadows and seeps (often alkaline), and riparian scrub below 3,986 feet September–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.
Forked hare-leaf <i>Lagophylla dichotoma</i>	CRPR 1B.1	Sometimes on clay soils in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland 147–1,099 feet April–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Madera leptosiphon <i>Leptosiphon serrulatus</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest 984–4,265 feet April–May	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site, and the project site is outside the species' elevation range.
Orange lupine <i>Lupinus citrinus</i> var. <i>citrinus</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Granitic substrates in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest 1,247–5,577 feet April–July	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site, and the project site is outside the species' elevation range.
San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i>	FT, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Vernal pools 33–2,477 feet April–September	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.
Hairy orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps 150–7,220 feet May–September	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.

Name	Status ¹	Habitat Requirements, Elevation Range, and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Hartweg's golden sunburst <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i>	FE, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Clay soils that are often acidic in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland 50–492 feet March–April	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
San Joaquin adobe sunburst <i>Pseudobahia peirsonii</i>	FT, SE, CRPR 1B.1	Cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland on adobe clay substrates 295–2,625 feet February–April	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Sanford's arrowhead <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	CRPR 1B.2	Assorted shallow freshwater including marshes, swamps, canals, ponds, and slow moving streams below 2,133 feet May–November	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which occurred during the blooming period for this species.
Keck's checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea keckii</i>	FE, CRPR 1B.1	Serpentinite and clay substrates in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland 246–2,132 feet April–June	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Caper-fruited tropidocarpum <i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i>	CRPR 1B.1	Alkaline soils in valley and foothill grassland often on low hills or valleys 3–1,490 feet March–April	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Greene's tuctoria <i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	FE, SR, CRPR 1B.1	Vernal pools 98–3,510 feet May–September	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The species was not observed during the reconnaissance-level survey of the project site, which was conducted during the blooming period of this species.

Name	Status ¹	Habitat Requirements, Elevation Range, and Blooming Period	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Oval-leaved viburnum <i>Viburnum ellipticum</i>	CRPR 2B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, usually on north- facing slopes 705–4,595 feet May–June	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site, and the project site is outside the species' elevation range.

¹Listing Status

FE = Federally listed as endangered
 FT = Federally listed as threatened
 SE = State listed as endangered
 ST = State listed as threatened
 SR = State listed as rare

California Rare Plant Rank Categories

1A = Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
 1B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
 2B = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
 4 = Plants of limited distribution—a watch list

²Definitions Regarding Potential Occurrence

Absent: Suitable habitat is not present and/or the project site is outside of the species' local distribution or elevation range

Threat Rank:

.1 = Seriously endangered in California.
 .2 = Fairly endangered in California
 .3 = Not very endangered in California

Table 2. Special-Status Wildlife Identified as Having the Potential to Occur on the Project Site

Name	Status ¹	Community Associations and Resource Requirements	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Invertebrates			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	ST	Elderberry shrubs in the Central Valley.	Absent. Suitable habitat (elderberry shrubs) are absent from the project site and the immediate vicinity; furthermore, project site is outside of the species' range.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	Vernal pools, ephemeral swales, basalt flow depression pools, depressions in sandstone rock outcrops; can occur in roadside ditches and puddles on pavement; usually with clear or tea-colored water; grass or mud bottoms; needs low total dissolved solids, conductivity, alkalinity, and chloride.	Absent. Vernal pools or other suitable habitats are not present on the project site.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	FE	Vernal pools and swales in unplowed grasslands in old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan or mud; clear to turbid water.	Absent. Vernal pools or other suitable habitats are not present on the project site.
Amphibians			
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, ST	Vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding; grasslands, scrub and oak woodlands located within 2,000 feet of breeding pools for upland refuge and dispersal with small mammal burrows for shelter.	Absent. Vernal pools are not present on the project site, nor are there any small mammal burrows appropriate for aestivation. The adjacent ponding basin is not suitable aquatic habitat for the species.
Western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	SCT, SSC	Rocky streams and rivers from sea level to ~6,365 feet; prefers small to moderate-sized streams with cobble substrate, open sunny banks, isolated pools, and backwaters; juveniles occupy riparian and streamside habitat adjacent to the wetted channel; overwintering habitat not well understood, but they remain close to streams.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.

Name	Status ¹	Community Associations and Resource Requirements	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Reptiles			
Northern California legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra</i>	SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils; also leaf litter under sparse vegetation in coastal dune, valley-foothill, chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Soil with a higher moisture content is essential.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site
California glossy snake <i>Arizona elegans</i>	SSC	Arid environments, often loose or sandy soils in scrub and grassland habitats. Open, sandy areas with scattered brush or rocky areas. May be associated with small mammal burrows.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site
Western pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	SSC	Lives where water persists throughout the year: ponds along foothill streams, lakes, ditches, and marshes. The ponds favored by turtles are characterized by emergent and floating vegetation such as cattails and mats of algae. These islands of vegetation are usually large enough to ensure a fair supply of food and protection for the pond turtle.	Absent. Suitable aquatic, nesting, and aestivating habitat is not present on the project site. The adjacent ponding basin provides inadequate habitat for the species.
Coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	SSC	Occupies a wide variety of habitats, commonly found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.
Birds			
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	FP	Golden eagles occur in oak woodland, desert, and mountainous areas in California. They nest in trees, cliffs, and large electrical transmission towers in areas with suitable prey (e.g., rabbits, hares, and squirrels) and topographic features that provide conditions needed for golden eagle flight.	Absent. There is no suitable nesting or foraging habitat on the project site. The nearest known nest sites are approximately 19 miles northeast of the project site.
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ST	Open habitat, including prairie, dry shrub-steppe, desert, and agricultural fields. Uses a variety of tree species for nesting.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site.

Name	Status ¹	Community Associations and Resource Requirements	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	FT, SE	Riparian forest nester, in jungles of willow or mesquite mixed with cottonwoods and understory of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape. Inhabits extensive deciduous riparian thickets or forests in slow-moving watercourses, backwaters, or seeps.	Absent. There is no suitable habitat for nesting or foraging on the project site.
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SSC	Burrow sites are in open dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low growing vegetation; also inhabits anthropogenic areas such as campuses, golf courses, cemeteries, airports, and grazed pastures.	Absent. Preferred, suitable habitat (i.e., ground squirrel burrows) is not present. There are no CNDDDB records near the project site.
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE, SE	Usually found near water or thickets along dry intermittent streams. Thickets of willow, coyote brush, mesquite or other low shrubs.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. Two CNDDDB records occur in Clovis from early 1900 and are considered possibly extirpated.
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	SSC	Freshwater marsh, swamps, and wetlands; sometimes associated with agricultural fields.	Absent. Suitable habitat is not present on the project site. The adjacent ponding basin lacks adequate vegetation to provide roosting or nesting substrate for a colony.
Mammals			
Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	SSC	Forages in open dry communities including grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Roosts in rocky outcrops, caves, crevices, mines, hollow trees, and buildings that moderate temperature. Night roosts on porches and open buildings.	Unlikely Suitable roosting habitat was observed on the project site, including the attics and crawlspaces of the buildings onsite. Roosting sites are not suitable for maternity roosts because of the high temperatures in the building during summer months. Suitable foraging habitat and prey base is likely inadequate to support individuals other than in a transient capacity. The nearest CNDDDB record is from 1909, approximately 7 miles to the southwest of the project site. All other CNDDDB records are well outside of city limits. No bats or signs of bats were observed during the survey.

Name	Status ¹	Community Associations and Resource Requirements	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
Spotted bat <i>Euderma maculatum</i>	SSC	Cracks, crevices, and caves, primarily in fractured rock cliffs for roosting; desert-scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer forest, canyon bottoms, rims of cliffs, riparian areas, fields, and open pasture for foraging. Primarily roosts along cliffs in cracks, crevices, and caves of fractured rock.	Absent. Roosting and adequate foraging habitat is absent from the project site. The nearest CNDDDB record of this species is approximately 11 miles to the north-northeast of the project site at Millerton Lake State Park. No bats or signs of bats were observed during the survey.
Western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	SSC	Found in open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban habitats. Extensive open areas required for foraging; roosts in cracks and crevices of rock outcrops and buildings, requires vertical faces to drop off to take flight.	Unlikely. The project site is within the species' range. The urban habitat on the project site may be capable of supporting western mastiff bats as one of their alternate daytime roosts. Foraging habitat within the immediate vicinity of the project site is limited, but the species can forage up to 15 miles away from roost sites and this species has an exceptionally long foraging period. The nearest CNDDDB record is approximately 6.8 miles west of the project site. No bats or signs of bats were observed during the survey.
Fresno Kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i>	FE, SE	Found in sandy loam and friable soils in alkali desert scrub and open grasslands with scattered shrubs. Consumes seeds from annual forbs and grasses such as oat or brome.	Absent. The project site is east of the known occurrences for the species and lacks appropriate habitat, soils, and forage. No small mammal burrows were observed during the survey.
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE, ST	Found in open grasslands at times with scattered brush, scrub, and bushes occurring on loose textured soils.	Absent. The project site lacks suitable habitat and adequate or preferred prey base. The region lacks a core population of San Joaquin kit fox and the project site is not adjacent to an adequate corridor of habitat where a dispersing individual may occur.
Sierra Nevada red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	FC, ST	A variety of communities including wet meadows and forested areas; dense vegetation and rocky areas for cover and den sites; den sites include rock outcrops, hollow logs and stumps, and burrows in loose soil.	Absent. There is one CNDDDB record from 1994 approximately 17 miles northeast of the project site. Historical records from similar elevation areas (i.e., similar to the project site) may have been incorrectly identified as <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> , the nonnative, introduced red fox species. <i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i> appears to have been extirpated from this part of its range and is only known to occur near Lassen Peak and Sonora Pass in the Sierra Nevada.

Name	Status ¹	Community Associations and Resource Requirements	Potential for Occurrence on Project Site ²
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC	Open grasslands at the edge of scrub and woodland habitats, savannas, meadows, desert scrub and agricultural fields; found in California up to timberline in large mountain meadows; low to moderate slopes; requires friable soils for burrows.	Absent. The site is within the species' range and there is a CNDDDB record from 1987 approximately 2.5 miles to the south. However, suitable habitat conditions are absent and adequate prey base is lacking at the site. Also, the project site is not adjacent to an adequate corridor of habitat where a dispersing individual may occur.

¹Listing Status

FE = Federally listed as endangered
 FT = Federally listed as threatened
 FC = Federally designated a candidate to propose for listing
 SE = State listed as endangered
 ST = State listed as threatened
 SCT = State candidate for listing as threatened
 FP = CDFW Fully Protected species
 SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern

²Definitions Regarding Potential Occurrence:

Unlikely: Onsite habitat is marginal and/or the site is slightly outside the species' local distribution, and was not seen during the surveys
 Absent: Species or sign were not observed during focused surveys despite the presence of appropriate habitat type; suitable habitat is not present; or project site is outside of the species' range

4.1 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plant species or suitable habitats were observed on the project site during the reconnaissance-survey. None of the 25 special-status plant species identified in the background review have potential to occur on the project site (Table 1). No further analysis or description will be provided for the rare plants because they were determined to be absent from the project site.

4.2 Special-Status Wildlife

Of the 25 special-status wildlife species known to occur in the region, only two were identified as having the potential to occur on the project site: pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*) (Table 2). These bat species could forage at the site or roost in the vacant buildings on the site and are discussed in detail below. None of six special-status bird species identified in the background review have potential to use the site for breeding or foraging; therefore, no further analysis or description will be provided for these bird species. Many resident and migrant birds that are protected under CFGC Section 3503, however, could nest on the project site.

4.2.1 Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

Federal Listing Status: None; State Listing Status: None; CDFW: Species of Special Concern. The pallid bat, in the family Vespertilionidae, inhabits coniferous forests, deciduous woodlands, brushy terrain, rocky canyons, open farm land, and desert (Pierson and Rainey 1998a). The species is most common in open, dry communities with rocky areas for roosting. The pallid bat is highly social and usually occurs in colonies of 12 to 100 individuals (Barbour and Davis 1969) that cluster to share body heat (Vaughn and O'Shea 1976). Pallid bats are primarily a crevice-roosting species and select daytime roosting sites where they can retreat from view (Pierson and Rainey 1998a). Recent radio-tracking efforts have also documented roost sites in trees (Pierson and Rainey 1998a). They roost both during the day and at night, spending 60–80% of a 24-hour cycle at roost sites (Vaughn and O'Shea 1976). During the day, this species shelters inside crevices or cavities found in natural features such as trees, cliffs, caves and rocky outcrops, and in human-made features such as barns, bridges, mines, and attics (Barbour and Davis 1969; Hermanson and O'Shea 1983; Pierson and Rainey 1998a). Temperature appears to be a limiting factor in roost selection, and although pallid bats are intolerant of roost temperatures above 104°F (Licht and Leitner 1967), they often occupy roosts with a varied temperature regime. Maternity roosts form in April and young are mostly born from May to June, with an average litter of two young (CDFW 2018b). Pallid bats are very sensitive to disturbance at the roost; when disturbed, they generally retreat into crevices, and may abandon the roost when there is repeated disturbance (Pierson and Rainey 1998a). The prey of the pallid bat consists of a wide variety of insects and arachnids, including beetles, orthopterans, homopterans, moths, spiders, scorpions, solpugids, and Jerusalem crickets. It is unusual among North American bats in that most of its prey is taken off the ground, although a few are taken aerially (Pierson and Rainey 1998a).

The pallid bat occurs throughout most of California, except is absent in the high Sierra Nevada (above 8,000 feet elevation) from Shasta to Kern counties and in the northwestern corner of the state (CDFW 2018a). The nearest CNDDDB record of the species is approximately 7 miles southwest of the project site near downtown Fresno, and 18 miles north of the project site at the San Joaquin Experimental Range (CDFW 2018a). Because of high temperatures in the church building's attic during the summer, the building does not provide potential roosting habitat. Further, the foraging habitat present on the project site is suboptimal, therefore, it is unlikely that the pallid bat occur on the project site.

4.2.2 Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis*)

Federal Listing Status: None; State Listing Status: None; CDFW: Species of Special Concern. The western mastiff bat is an uncommon bat in the family Molossidae, and is a state Species of Special Concern. This species is found in chaparral, coastal and desert scrub, coniferous and deciduous forest and woodland (Pierson and Rainey 1998b). They forage in broad, open areas within 15.5 miles of roosts habitats they are found in and in grasslands, floodplains, dry desert wash, meadow areas, and agriculture. Moths are their primary prey, and beetles and other soft-bodied, low-altitude, and weak-flying invertebrates are also commonly consumed (CDFW 2018b). Prey is captured either in flight or gleaned off vegetation (CDFW 2018b). Roosting rarely occurs at night and is primarily in cracks on vertical or nearly vertical cliffs or canyons, or cliff-like structures such as trees, tunnels, mines, or abandoned buildings (Pierson and Rainey 1998b; CDFW 2018b). Observations have been made of individuals roosting on other human-made structures, including awnings, ledges over doors and windows, and rafters. Western mastiff bats have variable roosting habits with some roosts being used faithfully and other roost sites used temporarily (CDFW 2018b). Maternity roosts are colonial, with a dozen to several hundred individuals (Pierson and Rainey 1998b). Occasionally two, but usually a single pup is born each year from June to September (CDFW 2018b).

Western mastiff bats are found throughout most of California from sea level up to 8,500 feet in the Sierra Nevada (Pierson and Rainey 1998b). The nearest CNDDDB record is from 1991 and is approximately 7 miles southwest of the project site (CDFW 2018a) (Figure 3). The project site is within the elevation range and geographic distribution of the western mastiff bat. Although there is suitable roosting habitat present on the site on the exterior of the abandoned buildings, no sign of bats were detected during the field survey and it unlikely they roost on the buildings; however the species may occasionally forage on the project site.

Section 5.0 Sensitive and Regulated Habitats

5.1 Designated Critical Habitat

There is no designated critical habitat on the project site or in the vicinity (CNDDDB 2018).

5.2 Sensitive Natural Communities

The sensitive natural communities recorded in the CNDDDB as occurring within 5 miles of the project site are Great Valley mixed riparian forest, sycamore alluvial woodland, northern basalt flow vernal pool, northern claypan vernal pool, and northern hardpan vernal pool (CDFW 2018a). None of these natural communities occur on the project site.

5.3 Jurisdictional Wetlands and Other Waters

No aquatic resources that represent potential waters of the United States, including wetlands, occur on the project site (Figure 4). In addition, the review of the Trust Resources List (USFWS 2018b) and the National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2018c) did not identify any wetlands as previously occurring on the project site.

Section 6.0 Environmental Impacts

6.1 Significance Criteria

CEQA defines a *significant effect on the environment* as “a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment.” (Public Resource Code, Section 21068). Projects that may have significant effects are required to be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Under the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15065, a project’s effects on biotic resources are deemed significant where the project would do any of the following:

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

In addition to the Section 15065 criteria that trigger mandatory findings of significance, Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines includes six additional impacts to consider when analyzing the significance of project effects. The impacts listed in Appendix G may or may not be significant, depending on the level of impact. A project’s effects on biotic resources could be deemed significant if the project would do the following:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.
- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.
- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.
- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

If the project proponent agrees to mitigation measures or project modifications that would avoid all significant effects or would mitigate the significant effect(s) to a point below the level of significance, an EIR would not be required. The project proponent would be bound to implement the mitigation measures to avoid any net loss of habitat and net reduction in the number of affected species, or the mitigation would be required to preserve, restore, or enhance sufficient habitat to mitigate effects to below a level of significance. Mitigation is not required for effects that are not found to be significant.

6.2 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Direct effects (or impacts), as defined under CEQA, are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by a project, but occur at a different time or place. Indirect effects may include project-induced changes on the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, or ecosystems (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15054[d][2]). The analysis of direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the environment must consider both short- and long-term effects. The discussion should include relevant specifics of the area, the resources involved, physical changes, alterations to ecological systems, and changes induced in population distribution and concentration. Impacts associated with the project are presented below under the applicable significance criterion.

6.2.1 Criterion A: Adverse Effects on Candidate, Sensitive, or Special-Status Species

The project will not affect plants listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA or the CESA; plant species considered by CNPS to be categorized as a CRPR 1, 2, 3, or 4 (CNPS 2018a); plant species listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.); or locally significant plant species (Table 1). Consequently, there would be no impacts on special-status plants.

The project will not affect animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the ESA or the CESA; animals listed as fully protected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); or locally significant species. Pallid and western mastiff bats, designated as species of special concern by CDFW, are unlikely to occur on the project site and are discussed under Impact Bio-1.

Impact BIO-1: Special-Status Bat Species

Because of high temperatures in the church building's attic during the summer, the building does not provide potential roosting habitat for pallid bats is absent from the site. Although there is suitable roosting habitat for western mastiff bat on the exterior of the abandoned buildings on the site, no sign of bats were detected during the field survey and it unlikely they roost on the buildings. Pallid bats are not likely to forage on the site since they typically forage within 1 to 3 miles of their day roost. While foraging habitat on the site is better for western mastiff bats they prefer grasslands, floodplains, dry desert wash, meadow areas, and agricultural area that are absent from the site and its vicinity. Moreover, they forage widely within approximately 15 miles of roosts, and impacts to foraging habitat will be de minimis relative to that which is available. Therefore, impacts on foraging habitat will be less than significant.

Significance: Impacts to special-status bat species would be less-than-significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Impact BIO-2: Protected Bird Species

If work is conducted during the bird breeding season (generally February 1 to August 31), bird nests, eggs, or young protected under CFGC could be affected. Occupied nests could be destroyed during the demolition of vacant buildings and vegetation removal. Noise, vibration, and movement of construction equipment and personnel in proximity to occupied nests could cause adults to abandon eggs or young, resulting in their mortality. These would be short-term, direct effects. Foraging habitat for these species would not be affected because the structure of the natural communities will not be significantly affected by the project.

Significance: Destruction of active bird nests and/ or abandon eggs or young, resulting in their mortality would not be in compliance with CFGC. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would comply with CFGC.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2a: Conduct preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and raptors and avoid active nests. If construction is scheduled between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds and raptors to ensure that no active nests will be destroyed or abandoned in compliance with CFGC.

The preconstruction survey shall be conducted no more than 10 days before starting project-related activities. During this survey, the qualified biologist shall inspect all potential nest substrates in the impact area, plus a 500-foot buffer for raptor nests where access allows. All nests identified will be monitored to determine if they are active.

If continuous monitoring of identified nests during construction by a qualified biologist is not feasible, establish a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 75 feet around active nests of non-raptor bird species. A 500-foot no-disturbance buffer shall be established around active raptor nests. Variance from these no-disturbance buffer may be implemented when there is a compelling biological or ecological reason to do so. Any variance from these buffers is advised to be supported by a qualified biologist. No work shall occur in the buffer zones until either the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged and are no longer dependent upon the nest or parental care for survival.

6.2.2 Criterion B: Adverse Effects on Sensitive Natural Communities

No sensitive natural communities are present on the project site.

Significance: There would be no impact on sensitive natural communities.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

6.2.3 Criterion C: Adverse Effects on Federally Protected Wetlands, as Defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

No federally protected wetlands, or other Section 404 waters, are present on the project site.

Significance: There would be no impact on federally protected wetlands or other waters.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

6.2.4 Criterion D: Adverse Effects on the Movement of Any Native Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife Species or with Established Native or Migratory Wildlife Corridors, or the Use of Native Wildlife Nursery Sites

The project site contains only developed and ruderal habitat, is bordered by residential development on three sides, and abuts a human-made ponding basin on the fourth side. No impacts on movement of native resident or migratory fish and wildlife species would occur. Also, no native wildlife nursery sites occur on the site.

Significance: There would be no impact on the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, on established native or migratory wildlife corridors, or on the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

6.2.5 Criterion E: Conflict with Any Local Policies or Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources, Such as a Tree Preservation Policy or Ordinance

No oak trees or other potential landmark or heritage trees occur on the project site. The only trees on the project site are common, non-native landscaping trees. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any local tree policies. However, special-status bat species with the potential to roost on site are covered by the Fresno County General Plan.

Impact BIO-3: Special-Status Plants and Animals under the Fresno County General Plan

The Fresno County General Plan requires that a biological resource evaluation, based on appropriately timed reconnaissance be performed to determine the presence or absence, and consider potential for significant impacts on, special status plants and animals (County of Fresno 2000a). No suitable habitat is present for special-status plants, and all potential special-status plants were determined to be absent. Suitable habitat is present in impact areas for pallid and western mastiff bats (Section 4.1).

Significance: If the project affected populations of special-status plants and animals without sufficient mitigation, this would be a significant impact under CEQA due to conflict with the Fresno County General Plan.

Mitigation: Focused surveys for special-status wildlife species and avoidance and minimization measures are required under MM BIO-1. These measures would reduce potential effects to a less-than-significant level.

6.2.6 Criterion F: Conflict with an Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or Other Approved Local, Regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plan

The proposed project would not conflict or interfere with PG&E HCP operations and maintenance activities.

No species covered by the Recovery Plan or habitat capable of supporting these species are present on the project site. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with the goals of the Recovery Plan.

There are no other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans that would conflict with the proposed project.

Significance: There would be no conflict with adopted habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

6.3 Cumulative Impacts

Section 15355 of the State CEQA Guidelines defines cumulative impacts as two or more effects, which when considered together, compound or increase other environmental impacts. These can be changes resulting from a single project or several projects, in which the effect on the environment results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Impacts from the subject project are minor, and proposed mitigation measures will reduce any significant impacts to less-than-significant levels, when those impacts cannot be avoided.

The area surrounding the project site is primarily single-family residences. There are no properties in the project vicinity that could be developed in the future. All future development in the project vicinity is expected to be similar to the existing residential home areas. Therefore, the proposed project, with the incorporation of mitigation measures, would not have direct effects on biological resources, including the loss of habitat. Construction and development of the project, with the incorporation of the prescribed mitigation measures, would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the numbers of rare species, or restrict the range or movement of rare species.

Section 7.0 References

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Appendix A. Photographs of the Study Site



Photo 1. Clovis Foursquare Church and developed landscaping. Photo was taken facing southwest on September 19, 2018.



Photo 2. Developed habitat (landscaping) on the project site. Photo was taken facing southeast on September 19, 2018.



Photo 3. Developed habitat (landscaping) on the project site. Photo was taken facing north on September 19, 2018.



Photo 4. Ruderal habitat on the project site. Photo was taken facing southeast on September 19, 2018.



Photo 5. Potential bat roosting habitat on the project site. Photo was taken facing south on September 19, 2018.

Appendix B. Plant Species Observed on the Project Site

FAMILY NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Amaranthaceae	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	Tumbleweed
	<i>Amaranthus blitoides</i>	Procumbent pigweed
	<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	Palmer's amaranth
Apocynaceae	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Common oleander
Asteraceae	<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Stinkwort
	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i>	Flax-leaved horseweed
	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	Horseweed
	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Common sow thistle
	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
Boraginaceae	<i>Amsinckia</i> sp.	Fiddleneck
Brassicaceae	<i>Acmispon americanus</i>	Spanish lotus
	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black Mustard
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Red sand-spurrey
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Lamb's quarters
Fabaceae	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	California burclover
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Croton setiger</i>	Doveweed
	<i>Euphorbia maculata</i>	Spotted spurge
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Longbeak stork's bill
	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Redstem filaree
Lamiaceae	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	Vinegarweed
Lythraceae	<i>Ammannia robusta</i>	Grand ammannia
	<i>Lagerstroemia</i> sp.	Crepe myrtle
Malvaceae	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Cheeseweed mallow
	<i>Malvella leprosa</i>	Alkali-mallow
Moraceae	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Edible fig
Oleaceae	<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i>	Shamel ash
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis corniculatus</i>	Creeping wood sorrel
Poaceae	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft chess
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bermuda grass
	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Hairy crab grass
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Hare barley
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Prostrate knotweed
Portulacaceae	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Purslane
Roseaceae	<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer</i> sp.	Maple
Solanaceae	<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimsonweed
Verbenaceae	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chastetree
Viscaceae	<i>Phoradendron leucarpum</i>	Mistletoe

FAMILY NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Zygophyllaceae	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Puncture vine

Appendix C. Wildlife Species Observed on or Near the Project Site

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Apelocoma californica</i>	California scrub jay
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada goose
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
<i>Charadrius vociferous</i>	Killdeer
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock pigeon
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Felis catus</i>	Domestic cat (feral)
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern mockingbird
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's phoebe
<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian collared-dove
<i>Strunus vulgaris</i>	European starling
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove