APPENDIX 4.2

Biological Resources Assessment

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
FOR THE

±4.5-ACRE EL DORADO HILLS APARTMENTS STUDY AREA

EL DORADO HILLS, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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for the
±4.5-ACRE EL DORADO HILLS APARTMENTS STUDY AREA

INTRODUCTION

Project Location

Salix Consulting, Inc. (Salix) has prepared a Biological Resources Assessment for the ±4.5-acre El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area (study area) located in the community of El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County, California. The site is bounded by Mercedes Lane to the north, Vine Street to the east, and Town Center Boulevard to the south. It is situated in Section 11 of Township 9 North and Range 8 East on the Clarksville USGS 7 ½ minute quadrangle (Figure 1). Elevation of the site ranges between 605 and 617 feet. The approximate coordinates for the center of the property are: 38°39′ 08.12″ N and 121° 03′ 52.47″ W.

Project Setting

The site occurs in the lower western foothills of the Sierra Nevada in a developing area (Figure 2). The site has been mass-graded and is covered by soil, gravel, and weedy annual vegetation (Figure 3). It is located in the midst of the El Dorado town center and is surrounded by existing commercial development on three sides and Town Center Lake to the west.

Project Background

In order to construct the proposed apartments, the owner has applied for amendments to the General Plan, the El Dorado Hills Specific Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Town Center East Development Plan allowing for multi-family residential use on the property, which is currently planned and zoned for commercial use.

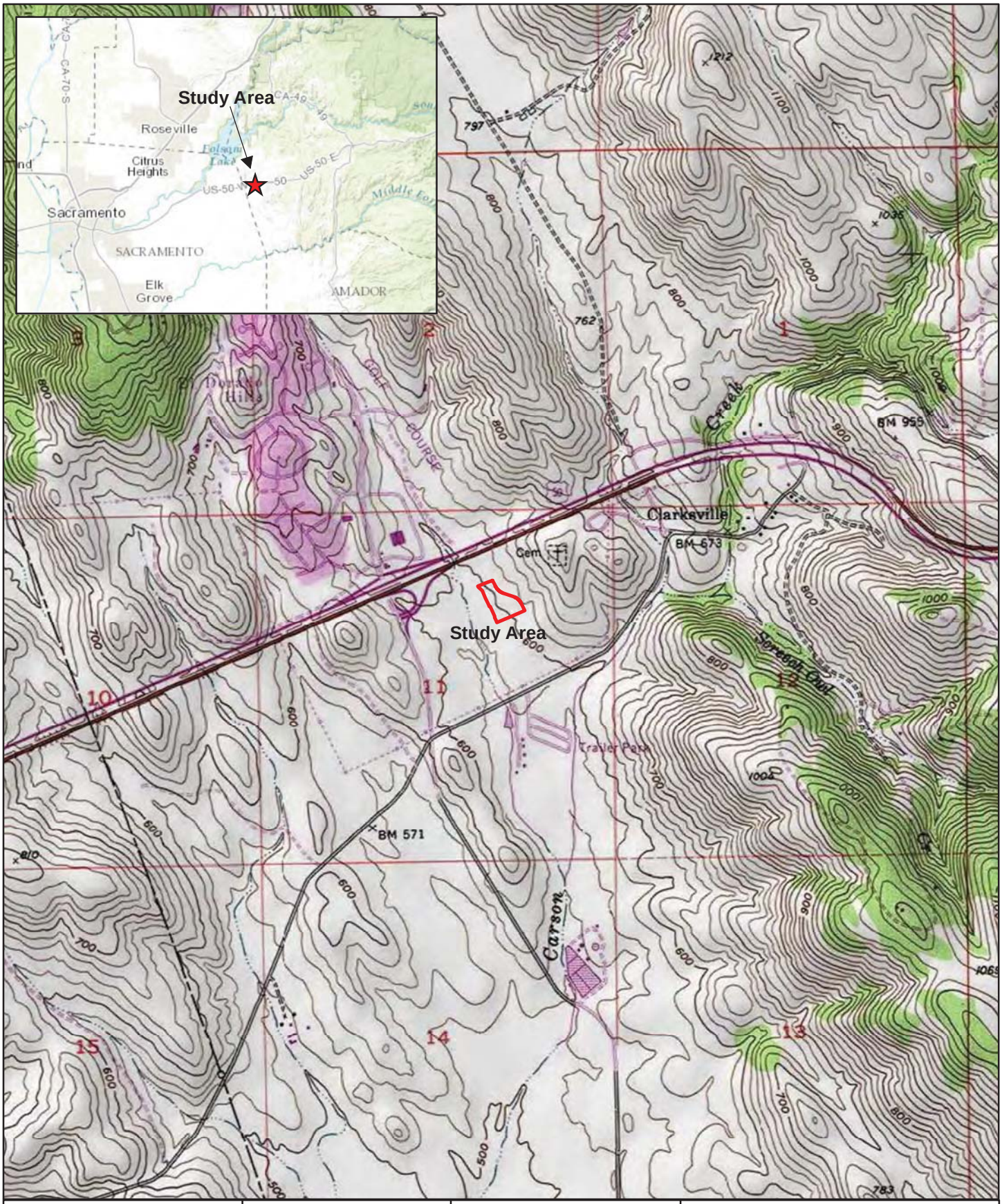
Objectives of Biological Resources Assessment

- Identify and describe the biological communities present in the study area
- Record plant and animal species observed in the study area
- Determine if the study area may or could contain sensitive resources that could be affected directly or indirectly by project activities
- Provide recommendations for mitigations or BMPs to avoid or minimize impacts to the extent feasible.

METHODS

Literature Review

As part of this assessment, Salix biologists reviewed aerial photographs, USGS maps, and site maps for the study area. Standard publications were reviewed to provide



Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 1,000 2,000

Feet

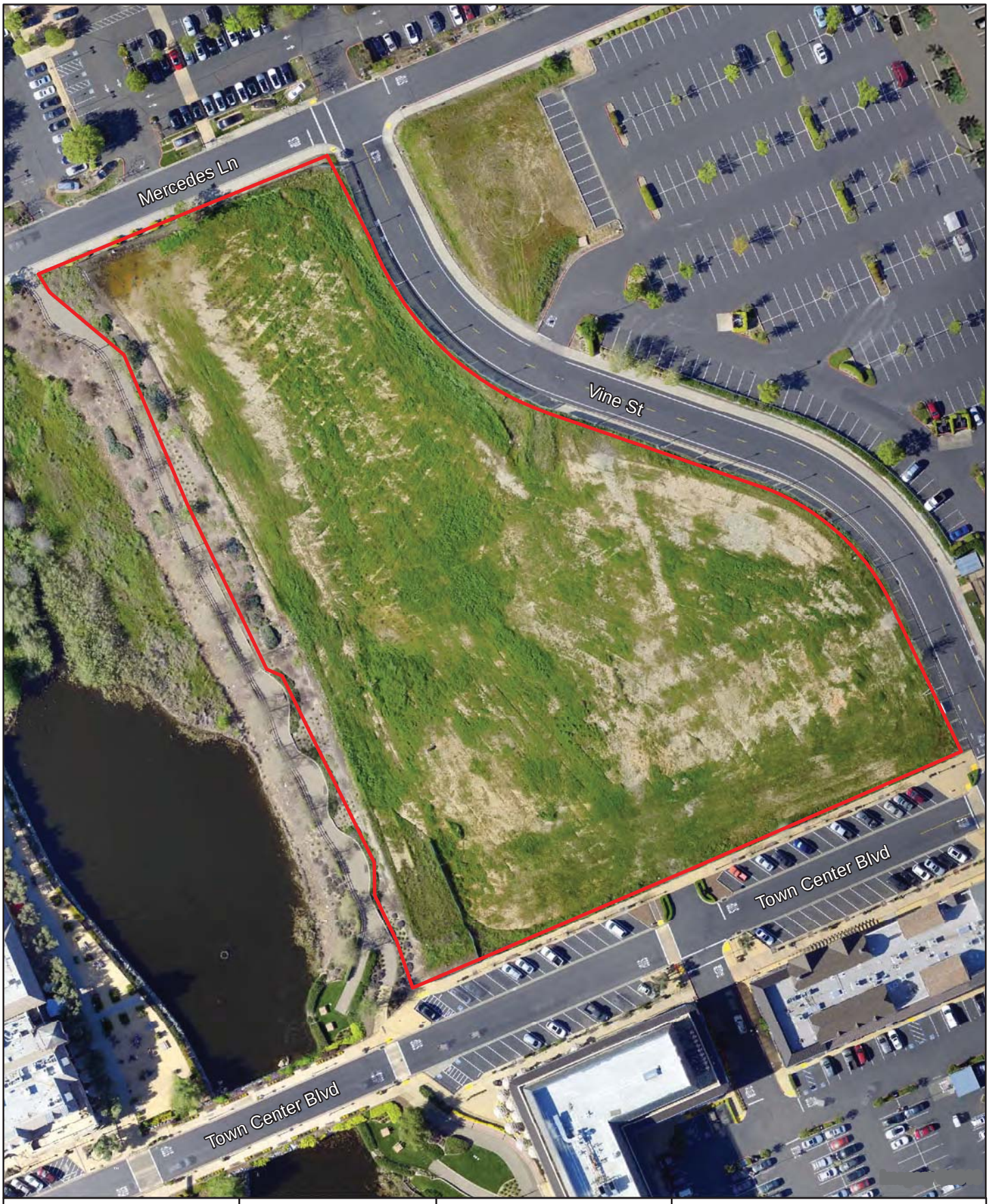
USGS Topographic 24k
Clarksville Quadrangle
Section: 11
Township: 9N
Range: 8E

Figure 1

SITE AND VICINITY MAP

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA



Salix consulting, inc.

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0 50 100

Feet

Legend

Study Area (±4.5 acres)

Imagery March 30, 2016
Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 2

AERIAL MAP

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 50 100

Feet

Legend

Study Area (±4.5 acres)

Imagery March 30, 2016
Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 3

SURFACE MODEL

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

information on life history, habitat requirements and distribution, of regionally occurring animal species. They include published books, peer-reviewed articles, field guides, the California Wildlife Habitats Relationships Program, and the El Dorado County General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element (2015). Publications utilized in this assessment are included in the References section of this document.

Special-Status Species Reports

To determine which special-status species could occur within or near the study area Salix biologists queried the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW 2016) and the California Native Plant Society Inventory (CNPS 2016) for reported occurrences of special-status fish, wildlife, and plant species in the region surrounding the study area. The nine-quadrangle search area included the Clarksville, Rocklin, Folsom, Folsom SE, Pilot Hill, Coloma, Shingle Springs, Buffalo Creek and Latrobe USGS quadrangles. . Salix biologists also reviewed the following special-status species lists for the project vicinity:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC Trust Resources Report generated for the El Dorado Hills Apartments Property study area;
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Special Animals List, and
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List.

For the purposes of this report, special-status species are those that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (or candidate species, or formally proposed for listing);
- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (or proposed for listing);
- Designated as rare, protected, or fully protected pursuant to California Fish and Game Code;
- Designated a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or
- Designated as Ranks 1 or 2 on lists maintained by the California Native Plant Society.

Field Assessments

Field assessments of the study area were conducted by Jeff Glazner and Hunter Gallant March 30 and April 8, 2016, to identify existing conditions and assess the site for the presence or absence of sensitive resources. During the field assessments, plants and animals observed on site were recorded, habitat types were determined, and the potential for the site to support special-status species known from the region was assessed. Appendix A is a list of plants observed, and Appendix B is a list of wildlife observed onsite. Plant names are according to *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition* (Baldwin et. al. 2012). Standard manuals were used to identify wildlife species observed.

Soils

One soil unit was identified on the site: Auburn Silt Loam, 2 to 30 percent slopes (Figure 4). The Auburn series consists of shallow to moderately deep, well drained soils formed in material weathered from amphibolite schist. The Auburn soils are on undulating to very steep foothills with slopes of 2 to 75 percent. Rock outcrops are common. The soils formed in material weathered from metabasic or metasedimentary rock such as amphibolite schist, greenstone schist, or diabase. These are well- drained soils with low to very high runoff and moderate permeability. They are found in the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

Biological Communities

One biological community was mapped on the study area: "Disturbed" (ruderal) as illustrated in Figure 5. Representative site photographs of the study area are presented in Figure 6.

The "disturbed" classification for this site meets all of the following criteria"

- The land has been permanently altered by previous legal human activity including grading/repeated clearing;
- The land exhibits evidence that the previous disturbance has eliminated all future biological value of the land for any species of concern;
- No native vegetation community remains;
- The land exhibits low value as habitat for sensitive wildlife, including foraging potential for raptors.

The disturbed plant community is primarily common weeds including winter vetch, rose clover, annual yellow sweetclover, Italian ryegrass, Spanish clover, windmill pink and ripgut grass. The majority of the plant species observed on the site are non-native. The site does not contain any trees or woody vegetation, except for two opportunistic cottonwood trees, both approximately 15 feet tall and growing along the eastern and southern fencelines. Plant species observed on the site are included in Appendix A.

Wildlife

Because of the location of the study area in close proximity to the adjacent community ponds, wildlife usage is primarily associated with species attracted to the ponds and utilizing the study area for foraging. We observed Canada geese on the property and a flock of great-tailed grackle (Figure 5b-2). The geese move back and forth from the ponds to the study area, and the grackle were observed flying between vegetation along the southern pond and the study area. Red-winged blackbird and brewers blackbird were also common on the study site. Black-tailed jackrabbit was observed foraging on

Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 50 100

Feet

Legend

Study Area (±4.5 acres)

Imagery March 30, 2016
Salix Consulting, Inc.

Figure 4

SOIL COMPONENTS MAP

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 50 100

Feet

Legend

Study Area (±4.5 acres)

Figure 5

HABITAT COMPONENTS MAP

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

6a-1 Looking southeast across project site. *Photo Date 4-8-16*

6a-2 Looking east along southern fence line of project site. *Photo Date 4-8-16*

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 6a

SITE PHOTOS

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

6b-1 Looking southeast from northwest corner of project site.
Photo Date 4-8-16

6b-2 Great-tailed grackle foraging on the project site.
Photo Date 4-8-16

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 6b

SITE PHOTOS
El Dorado Hills Apartments
El Dorado Hills, CA

the property. A list of species observed during the site assessments is provided in Appendix B.

Waters of the United States

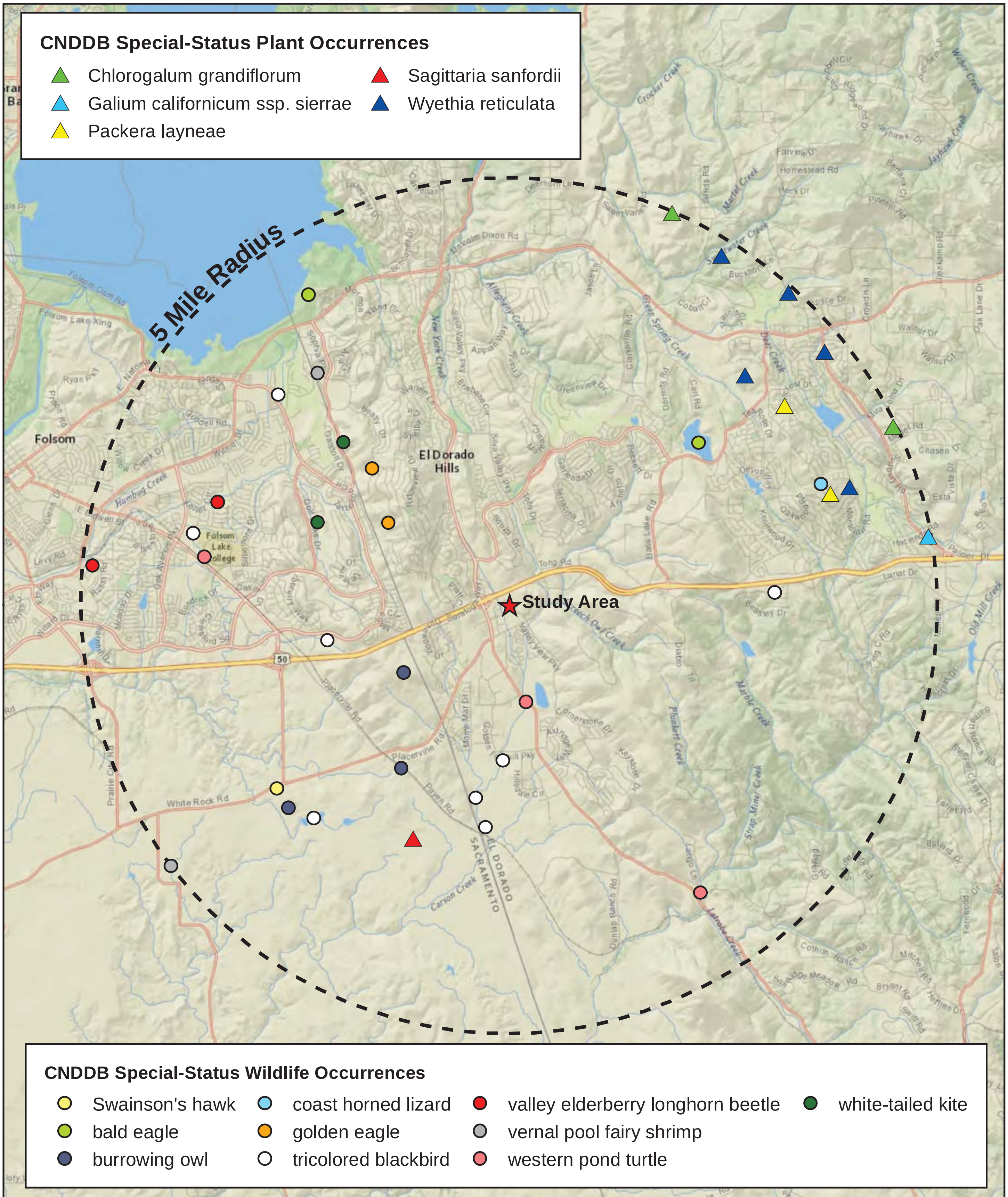
No areas designated as "waters of the U.S." (such as streams and wetlands) were identified within the Study Area. The northwest corner of the site exhibited ponding water during our first site visit on March 30 (see Figure 2, Aerial Photo). This area is bermed by a "lip" along the project boundary and retains water for short durations. The area was dry during our second site visit on April 8 (see figure 5b-1). Soil pits did not indicate a reducing soil condition although annual wetland vegetation was growing in portion of the ponded area. Wetland plant species include purslane speedwell and hyssop loosestrife. Ponding at this location is an artifact of seasonal grading and a very low berm at the corner of the property and does not represent the normal circumstance. We do not consider this location a wetland nor a waters of the U.S.

Special-Status Species

To determine potentially-occurring special-status species, the standard databases from the USFWS, CDFW (CNDDB 2016), and CNPS were queried and reviewed. These searches provided a comprehensive list of regionally occurring species and were used to determine which species have some potential to occur within or near the study area. Appendix C lists potentially-occurring special-status plants, and Appendix D lists special-status animals compiled from our queries as described above. The field surveys and the best professional judgment of Salix biologists were used to further refine the tables in Appendices C and D. Additionally, plant species found on the CNPS List 3 and 4 are not considered further in the document. Figure 7 shows approximate locations of reported occurrences of CNDDB special-status wildlife and plants within a five-mile radius of the study area.

Of the 19 potentially-occurring plant species in Appendix C, three (3) were identified as occurring within or near a 5-mile radius of the study area. All of these species and all of the remaining species in Appendix C, were determined have no potential for occurring onsite due to the absence of suitable habitat or substrates. These are summarized in Table 1 below.

Of the 25 animal species in Appendix D, ten were identified as occurring within or near the 5-mile radius of the study area. All of the animal species occurring within the 5-mile radius, as well as all of the remaining species in Appendix D, were determined to have no potential for occurring onsite due to the absence of suitable habitats. These are summarized in Table 1 below.



Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 1 2
Miles

Source: CNDDB 3-30-16

Figure 7

CNDDB SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES OCCURRENCES

El Dorado Hills Apartments

El Dorado Hills, CA

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Plants					
Red Hills soaproot *Chlorogalum grandiflorum*		-	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland[serpentinite or gabbroic].;	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils.
Jepson's Onion *Allium jepsonii*			1B.2	Cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; [serpentinite or volcanic].;	Site lacks serpentine soils.
Stebbins' morning-glory *Calystegia stebbinsii*	FE	CE	1B.1	Chaparral (openings); cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils.
Pine Hill flannelbush *Fremontodendron decumbens*	FE	CR	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [gabbroic or serpentinite].	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils.
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	-	-	1B.2	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater)	Site lacks marshes/ swamps.
Big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	-	-	1B.2	Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland [sometimes serpentinite].	Site lacks suitable habitat.
Layne's ragwort *Packera layneae*	FT	CR	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [gabbroic or serpentinite].	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils.
El Dorado County mules ears *Wyethia reticulata*	-	-	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest [clay or gabbroic]	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils
Dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	-	-	2B.2	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic); vernal pools	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	-	-	1B.1	Vernal pools and similar wetlands	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus ahartii*	-	-	1B.2	Vernal pools	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	-	CE	1B.2	Marshes and swamps (lake margins); vernal pools. Below 1200m.	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Sacramento Valley Orcutt grass *Orcuttia viscida*	FE	CE	1B.1	Vernal pools.	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Slender Orcutt grass *Orcuttia tenuis*	FT	CE	1B.1	Vernal pools	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii myersii*	-	-	1B.1	Vernal pools.	Site lacks vernal pools and similar habitat.
Pine Hill ceanothus *Ceanothus roderickii*	FE	CR	1B.1	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils
Eldorado bedstraw *Galium californicum sierrae*	FE	CR	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest [gabbroic]	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils
Red Hills soaproot *Chlorogalum grandiflorum*	-	-	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland;[serpentinite or gabbroic]	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils
Starved daisy *Erigeron miser*	-	-	1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky, usually granite)	Site lacks suitable habitat. Outside range of species.
Parry's horkelia *Horkelia parryii*	-	-	1B.2	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [especially Ione formation]	Site lacks gabbro/serpentine soils
Tuolumne button-celery *Eryngium pinnatisectum*	-	-	1B.2	Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland; vernal pools [mesic]	No vernal pools or similar wetlands onsite.
Invertebrates					
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT	-		Vernal pools and other temporary bodies of water in southern and Central Valley of CA	No vernal pools or similar wetlands onsite
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	FE	-		Vernal pools in Central Valley of CA and San Francisco Bay Area	No vernal pools or similar wetlands onsite
Insects					
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimprphus*	FT	-		For most of its life cycle, requires host plant (Sambucus nigra) with stem diameters at ground level of 1" or greater. Shrubs must be located t less than 3.000 ft. elevation.	No elderberry shrubs present onsite.
Fish					

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Steelhead, Central Valley ESU *Oncorhynchus mykiss iideus*	FT	-		Occurs below man-made impassable barriers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and tributaries. Yuba River has essentially the only remaining wild steelhead fishery in Central Valley.	No suitable habitat present.
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	FT	CT		Endemic to Sacramento-San Joaquin delta in coastal and brackish waters, seasonally in Suisun and San Pablo Bays..Usually spawns in dead-end sloughs, shallow channels.	No suitable habitat present. Outside range of species.
Amphibians					
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT	SSC		Ponds and deeper pools along streams with emergent or overhanging vegetation. Surface water to at least June .	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	-	SSC		Found in partially-shaded, shallow streams with rocky substrates. Meeds some cobble-sized rocks as a substrate for egg-laying. Requires water for 15 weeks for larval transformation.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	-	SSC		Found primarily in grassland habitats, but may occur in valley and foothill woodlands. Requires vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, or stock ponds for breeding and egg-laying.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FT	CT		Annual grassland habitat (<1500 feet); occasionally in grassy understory of valley-foothill hardwood habitats where lowland aquatic sites are available for breeding.	No suitable habitat present onsite.

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Reptiles					
Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*	FT	CT		Primarily associated with marshes and sloughs, less with slow-moving creeks, and absent from larger rivers.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	-	SSC		Inhabits ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Needs suitable backing sites and upland habitat for egg-laying.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	-	SSC		Open lowlands, washes, sandy areas with exposed gravelly-sandy substrate containing scattered shrubs. Edge of Sacramento Valley and in Sierra foothills. Also observed in riparian woodland clearings and dry uniform chamise chaparral	Site lacks friable soils; highly disturbed site.
Birds					
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	-	CFP		Found in lower foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and along river bottomlands or marshes adjacent to oak woodlands. Nests in trees with dense tops.	No nesting or foraging habitat onsite.
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		CE, CFP		Occurs along shorelines, lake margins, and rivers. Nests in large old-growth or dominant trees with open branches.	No nesting habitat present onsite.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturnculus*	-	CT	-	Inhabits salt, fresh, and brackish water marshes with little daily and/or annual water fluctuations. In freshwater habitats, preference is for dense bulrush and cattails.	No suitable habitat (wetlands) present onsite.

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*		CT		Breeds in open areas with scattered trees; prefers riparian and sparse oak woodland habitats. Requires nearby grasslands, grain fields, or alfalfa for foraging. Rare breeding species in Central Valley	No nesting or foraging habitat present onsite. Project site too far east and upslope of valley floor.
Golden eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		CFP		Found in rolling foothill grassland with scattered trees. Nests on cliffs and in large trees in open areas.	No suitable nesting habitat present onsite.
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*		SSC		Found in annual and perennial grasslands. Nests in burrows dug by small mammals, primarily ground squirrels	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*		CT		Colonial nester near riparian and other lowland habitats. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with fine-textured, sandy soils near streams, rivers, and lakes.	No suitable habitat (river) present onsite.
Tri-colored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*		CE		Colonial nester in dense cattails, tules, brambles, or other dense vegetation. Requires open water, dense vegetation, and open grassy areas for foraging.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
Purple martin *Progne subis*	-	SSC		Breeds in riparian woodland, open coniferous forest. Secondary cavity nester. Requires nest sites close to open foraging areas of water or land.	No suitable nesting habitat onsite.
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammoodramus savannarum*				Breeds in grasslands and savannahs in rolling hills. Favors native grasslands with a mix of grasses, forbs, and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	No suitable habitat present onsite.

Table 1.
Special Status Species Determined to have NO POTENTIAL to Occur Within the El Dorado Hills Apartments Study Area

Species	Status* Federal	State	CNPS	Habitat	Reason for NO POTENTIAL to occur
Mammals					
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	-	SSC	-	Occurs in grasslands, woodlands, deserts, and urban habitats. Open habitat required for foraging. Common in dry habitats with rocky outcrop, cliffs, and crevices for roosting. Roosts include caves, mines, bridges, and occasionally hollow trees, buildings.	No suitable roosting structures present onsite.
Fisher – West Coast DPS ***Pekania pennanti***	FPT	CC/SSC		Occurs in intermediate to large-tree stage coniferous forests and riparian woodlands with high percent level of canopy closure.	No suitable habitat present onsite.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	-	SSC		Occurs in dry, open soils in herbaceous, shrub, and forest habitats. Needs friable, uncultivated soil. Preys on rodents.	No suitable habitat present onsite.

***Status Codes:**
Federal
FE **Federal Endangered**
FPT **Federal Proposed Threatened**
FT **Federal Threatened**

State
CC **California Candidate**
CE **California Endangered**
CFP **California Fully Protected**
CR **California Rare**
CT **California Threatened**
SSC **California Species of Concern**

CNPS
Rank 1B Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California
Rank 2 R, T, or E in California, more common elsewhere
1- Seriously threatened in California
2- Fairly threatened in California

Plants

Many special-status plants are known from the nine-quadrangle region surrounding the study area, as listed in Appendix C. However, the El Dorado Hills apartment site is highly disturbed and lacks vernal pools or similar habitats, marshes and swamps that are necessary for the following plants. Thus none have the potential to occur onsite.

- Sanford's arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*),
- dwarf downingia (*Downigia pusilla*),

- legenere (*Legenere limosa*),
- Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus ahartii*),
- Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*),
- Sacramento Valley Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*),
- Slender Orcutt grass (Orcuttia tenuis),
- Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*)and
- pincushion navarretia (*Navarretia myersii myersii*).

The site also lacks the gabbro/serpentine soils required to support the following plants, none of which have potential to occur onsite.

- Red Hills soaproot (*Chlorogalium grandiflorum*),
- Jepson's onion (*Allium jepsonii*),
- Stebbins' morning-glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*),
- Pine Hill flannelbush (*Fremontodendron decumbens*),
- Layne's ragwort (*Packera layneae*),
- El Dorado County mules ears (*Wyethia reticulata*),
- Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*), and
- Eldorado bedstraw (*Galium californicum sierrae*).

There is no suitable habitat onsite for starved daisy (*Erigeron miser*), and the site is located outside the range of the species.

Five special-status plants occur within a 5-mile radius of the study area as shown on Figure 6: Red Hills soaproot, Eldorado bedstraw, Layne's ragwort, Sanford's arrowhead, and El Dorado County mules ears. As noted above and in Table 1, all of these species require habitats or soils that are not present within the study area; thus, these species have no potential to occur on the site.

Wildlife

Of the 25 special-status animals identified through the database searches and other literature as occurring within the broader region surrounding the study area, all were determined to have no potential for occurring within the study area due to the absence of suitable habitat on the disturbed site (Table 1). In particular:

- the site lacks aquatic habitats to support Central Valley steelhead, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, and giant garter snake, as well as bald eagle, and California black rail;
- the site lacks vernal pools and similar wetlands that support invertebrate species unique to these habitats;
- the site lacks the friable soils necessary to support coast horned lizard;

- the site lacks elderberry shrubs (*Sambuca nigra*) to support the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle;
- the site lacks suitable nesting habitat for all of the birds, including large/tall trees, woodlands, or dense vegetation.

Ten special-status animals occur within a 5-mile radius of the study area as shown on Figure 7: Swainson's hawk, bald eagle, white-tailed kite, burrowing owl, golden eagle, tricolored blackbird, coast horned lizard, western pond turtle, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and valley elderberry longhorn beetle. As discussed above, the site lacks suitable habitat for all listed invertebrates, insects, amphibians, and reptiles that occur in the broader region. Birds with notable special status are discussed below.

Bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus),* a California endangered and fully-protected species, requires large bodies of water, or free-flowing rivers with nearby perches, including snags, large-limbed tall trees, or rocks near water. Due to the lack of suitable nesting and foraging sites, there is no potential for occurrence of bald eagle in the study area.

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), a California fully-protected species, is typically found in grassy foothill slopes interspersed with oaks (including interior live oak, agricultural areas, and marshy bottomlands). White-tailed kites generally forage in undisturbed open grasslands, farmlands, meadows, and emergent wetlands, in areas with a high prey base. Nest trees range from single isolated trees to trees within larger stands. Nests of white-tailed kite are constructed near the top of oaks, willows, or other tall trees from 20 to 100 feet above ground The CNDDB documents nesting occurrences of white-tailed kite within the project region (CDFW 2016). Based on the lack of habitat available, there is no potential for occurrence of white-tailed kite within the study area.

Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), a California endangered species, is a highly colonial species that primarily nests in freshwater emergent wetlands. Nesting colonies of this species are considered sensitive by CDFW. This species generally requires open water, with protected nesting habitat, and suitable foraging areas close to the colony. Breeding and nesting typically takes place in dense cattails or tules, and may also occur in thickets of willow, blackberry, wild rose, and tall herbs (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Nest sites are usually located a few feet over, or near, freshwater. Nesting areas must be large enough to support a minimum colony of about 50 pairs. Due to the absence of habitat available for the species, there is no potential for occurrence of tri-colored blackbird in the study area.

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a California Species of Special Concern, occurs in association with open, dry grasslands, deserts, agricultural areas, and rangeland throughout the Central Valley. They often occur where numerous burrowing mammals are present and frequently occupy California ground squirrel burrows (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Burrowing owls may also use man-made structures such as debris piles, culverts, and cement piles for cover. The CNDDB documents burrowing owl as occurring within a five-mile radius of the study area (CNDDB 2016). No evidence of occurrence of this species was observed during the field assessment, and no suitable habitat, such as ground squirrel burrows, was observed throughout the highly disturbed area. Thus, there is no potential for occurrence of burrowing owl in the study area.

Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), a California threatened species, is an uncommon breeding resident and migrant in the Central Valley. Breeding and nesting primarily occurs in riparian woodland habitats and oak savannah of the Central Valley, and often takes place near water (Beedy et al. 2013). Some nesting in urban woodland areas has also been recorded. Suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk includes annual grassland, agricultural fields, fallow fields, low-growing row or field crops, and dry-land and irrigated pasture (CDFW 1994). The CNDDB documents one previous observation of an adult Swainson's hawk within five miles of the study area (3.5miles southwest of the study area along White Rock Road in Sacramento County in 1979 and 1982). Due to the absence of suitable nesting or foraging habitat available for the species, there is no potential for occurrence of Swainson's hawk in the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Waters of the United States

The study area contains no areas that qualify as waters of the United States. Thus, no Clean Water Act permits (Section 404 from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or Section 401 Water Quality Certification from Regional Water Quality Control Board) will be required.

Streams, Pond, and Riparian Habitat

The study area contains no streams, ponds, or riparian habitat. Thus, no Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required from California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tree Conservation

El Dorado County General Plan policies provide regulations to "protect and conserve forest and woodland resources for their wildlife habitat, recreation, water production, domestic livestock grazing, production of a sustainable flow of wood products, and aesthetic values." There are no trees or woodlands on the El Dorado Apartments site that would be subject to these provisions, and no recommendations are made for further study of forest/woodland resources.

Special-Status Plants

No habitat that would support special-status plant species known to occur in the region is present on the site. No recommendations are made regarding further study for special-status plants.

Special-Status Wildlife

Because there is no foothill woodland on or adjacent to the site no preconstruction surveys for raptors or nesting birds are recommended.

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Appendix A.
Plant Species Observed Within the Study Area

Appendix A

Plants Observed- El Dorado Hills Apartments Site- April 2016

Angiosperms - Dicots

Apiaceae (Umbelliferae) - Carrot Family

**Foeniculum vulgare*	Sweet fennel
**Torilis arvensis*	Field hedgeparsley

Asteraceae (Compositae) - Sunflower Family

Ambrosia psilostachya	Western ragweed
**Anthemis cotula*	Mayweed
Artemisia douglasiana	California mugwort
Baccharis pilularis subsp. consanguinea	Coyote brush
**Carduus pycnocephalus subsp. pycnocephalus*	Italian thistle
**Centaurea solstitialis*	Yellow starthistle
**Cichorium intybus*	Chicory
**Cirsium vulgare*	Bull thistle
**Dittrichia graveolens*	Stinkwort
Erigeron canadensis	Canadian horseweed
Holocarpha virgata subsp. virgata	Virgate tarweed
**Hypochaeris glabra*	Smooth cat's-ear
**Lactuca serriola*	Prickly lettuce
**Leontodon saxatilis*	Long-beaked hawkbit
**Logfia gallica*	Narrowleaf cottonrose
**Matricaria discoidea*	Pineapple-weed
Micropus californicus var. californicus	Cottontop
**Senecio vulgaris*	Common groundsel
**Silybum marianum*	Milk thistle
**Sonchus asper subsp. asper*	Prickly sow-thistle
**Sonchus oleraceus*	Common sow-thistle

Boraginaceae - Borage Family

Amsinckia menziesii	Rancher's fireweed

Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) - Mustard Family

**Brassica nigra*	Black mustard
Cardamine oligosperma	Western bitter-cress
**Hirschfeldia incana*	Short-podded mustard
**Raphanus sativus*	Wild radish

Caryophyllaceae - Pink Family

**Cerastium glomeratum*	Sticky mouse-ear chickweed
**Petrorhagia dubia*	Grass-pink
**Silene gallica*	Windmill-pink
**Spergularia rubra*	Ruby sand-spurrey
**Stellaria media*	Common chickweed

Chenopodiaceae - Goosefoot Family

**Chenopodium album*	White pigweed

Convolvulaceae - Morning-Glory Family

**Convolvulus arvensis*	Bindweed

Crassulaceae - Stonecrop Family

**Crassula tillaea*	Moss pygmy-weed

Fabaceae (Leguminosae) - Legume Family

Acmispon americanus var. americanus	Spanish-clover
**Lotus corniculatus*	Bird's-foot trefoil
Lupinus bicolor	Miniature lupine
**Medicago polymorpha*	California burclover
**Melilotus indicus*	Annual yellow sweetclover
**Trifolium dubium*	Little hop clover
**Trifolium hirtum*	Rose clover
**Vicia villosa*	Winter vetch

Geraniaceae - Geranium Family

**Erodium botrys*	Broad-leaf filaree
**Erodium cicutarium*	Red-stem filaree
**Geranium dissectum*	Cut-leaf geranium

Lamiaceae (Labiatae) - Mint Family

**Lamium amplexicaule*	Deadnettle

Lythraceae - Loosestrife Family

**Lythrum hyssopifolia*	Hyssop loosestrife

Montiaceae - Miner's Lettuce Family

Calandrinia ciliata	Red maids

Myrsinaceae - Myrsine Family

**Lysimachia arvensis*	Scarlet pimpernel

Onagraceae - Evening Primrose Family

Epilobium brachycarpum	Summer cottonweed

Orobanchaceae - Broomrape Family

Castilleja attenuata	Valley tassels

Papaveraceae - Poppy Family

Eschscholzia californica	California poppy

Plantaginaceae - Plantain Family

**Plantago lanceolata*	English plantain
Veronica peregrina subsp. xalapensis	Purslane speedwell

Polygonaceae - Buckwheat Family

**Polygonum aviculare*	Common knotweed
**Rumex crispus*	Curly dock

Salicaceae - Willow Family

Populus fremontii subsp. fremontii	Fremont cottonwood

Vitaceae - Grape Family

Vitis californica	California wild grape

Angiosperms -Monocots

Juncaceae - Rush Family

Juncus bufonius	Toad rush

Poaceae (Gramineae) - Grass Family

**Aira caryophyllea*	Silver European hairgrass
**Avena fatua*	Wild oat
**Briza minor*	Small quaking grass

* Indicates a non-native species

**Bromus diandrus*	Ripgut grass
**Bromus hordeaceus*	Soft chess
**Bromus madritensis*	Foxtail brome
**Cynodon dactylon*	Bermudagrass
**Festuca myuros*	Rattail sixweeks grass
**Festuca perennis*	Italian ryegrass
**Hordeum marinum subsp. gussoneanum*	Mediterranean barley
**Poa annua*	Annual bluegrass

Themidaceae - Brodiaea Family

Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. capitatum	Bluedicks

* Indicates a non-native species

Appendix B.
Wildlife Species Observed Within the Study Area

Appendix B

EDH Apartments - Wildlife Observed - April 2016

Birds

Canada goose	*Branta canadensis*
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*
Rock dove	*Columba livia*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
Western scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Dark-eyed junco	*Junco hyemalis*
Red-winged blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*
Great-tailed grackle	*Quiscalus mexicanus*
House finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*
House sparrow	*Passer domesticus*

Mammals

Black-tailed jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*

Appendix C.
Potentially-Occurring Special-Status Plants in the Region of the Study Area

Appendix C

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Agavaceae				
Chlorogalum grandiflorum Red Hills soaproot	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-June	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Alismataceae				
Sagittaria sanfordii Sanford's arrowhead	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-October	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater).	None. No suitable habitat (marsh) onsite.
Alliaceae				
Allium jepsonii Jepson's onion	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-August	Cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest [serpentinite or volcanic]. 300 to 1160 meters.	None. Site lacks serpentinite or volcanic soils.
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)				
Eryngium pinnatisectum Tuolumne button-celery	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	June-August	Cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; vernal pools; [mesic].	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Asteraceae (Compositae)				
Balsamorhiza macrolepis Big-scale balsam-root	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	March-June	Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland; [sometimes serpentinite].	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
Erigeron miser Starved daisy	Fed: FSS State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.3	June-October	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky, usually granite). 1840-2620 m.	None. No suitable habitat onsite. Site located outside range of species.

Appendix C

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Packera layneae Layne's ragwort	Fed: FT State: CR CNPS: Rank 1B.2	April-July	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Wyethia reticulata El Dorado County mules ears	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-July	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; [clay or gabbroic].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Campanulaceae				
Downingia pusilla Dwarf downingia	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 2B.2	March-May	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic); vernal pools.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Legenere limosa Legenere	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.1	April-June	Vernal pools and similar wetlands.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Convolvulaceae				
Calystegia stebbinsii Stebbins' morning-glory	Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-June	Chaparral (openings); cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Juncaceae				
Juncus leiospermus ahartii Ahart's dwarf rush	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	March-May	Vernal pools.	None. Site lacks wetlands.

Appendix C

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Malvaceae				
Fremontodendron decumbens Pine Hill flannelbush	Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: Rank 1B.2	April-June	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [gabbroic or serpentinite].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Plantaginaceae				
Gratiola heterosepala Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop	Fed: - State: CE CNPS: Rank 1B.2	April-August	Marshes and swamps (lake margins); vernal pools. Below 1200 m.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Poaceae (Gramineae)				
Orcuttia tenuis Slender Orcutt grass	Fed: FT State: CE CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-September	Vernal pools.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Orcuttia viscida Sacramento Valley Orcutt grass	Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-June	Vernal pools.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Polemoniaceae				
Navarretia myersii myersii Pincushion navarretia	Fed: - State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-May	Vernal pools.	None. Site lacks wetlands.
Rhamnaceae				
Ceanothus roderickii Pine Hill ceanothus	Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: Rank 1B.1	May-June	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.

Appendix C

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Plants

Family Taxon Common Name	Status*	Flowering Period	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Rosaceae				
Horkelia parryi Parry's horkelia	Fed: FSW State: - CNPS: Rank 1B.2	April-June	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [especially Ione formation].	None. Site lacks serpentinite/gabbroic soils.
Rubiaceae				
Galium californicum sierrae Eldorado bedstraw	Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: Rank 1B.2	May-June	Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; [gabbroic].	None. Site lacks gabbroic soils.

***Status**

Federal:
FE - Federal Endangered
FT - Federal Threatened
FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened
FC - Federal Candidate
FSS - Forest Service Sensitive
FSW - Forest Service Watchlist

State:
CE - California Endangered
CT - California Threatened
CR - California Rare
CSC - California Species of Special Concern

CNPS (California Native Plant Society - List.RED Code):
Rank 1A - Extinct
Rank 1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
Rank 2A- Plants extinct in California, but more common elsewhere
Rank 2B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
Rank 3 - Plants about which more information is needed, a review list
Rank 4 - Plants of limited distribution, a watch list
RED Code
1 - Seriously endangered (>80% of occurrences threatened)
2 - Fairly endangered (20 to 80% of occurrences threatened)
3 - Not very endangered (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Appendix D.
Potentially-Occurring Special-Status Animals in the Region of the Study Area

Appendix D

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Invertebrates			
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	Fed: FT State: - Other: -	Vernal pools and other temporary bodies of water in southern and Central Valley of California. Most common in smaller grass or mud bottomed swales or basalt flow depression pools in unplowed grasslands.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat. No wetlands onsite.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	Fed: FE State: - Other: -	Found in vernal pools in the Central Valley of California and in the San Francisco Bay area. Inhabits vernal pools with clear to highly turbid water.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat. No wetlands onsite.
Insects			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	Fed: FT State: - Other: *	Requires host plant, elderberry (Sambucus nigra) for most of its life cycle. Shrubs must have stem diameters at ground level of 1.0 inch or greater and shrubs must be found less than 3,000 feet in elevation.Typically riparian and upland associated.	None. No elderberry shrubs present onsite.
Fish			
Steelhead, Central Valley ESU *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	Fed: FT State: - Other: -	Occurs below man-made impassable barriers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and tributaries. Adults migrate from ocean to natal freshwater streams to spawn. Yuba River has essentially the only remaining wild steelhead fishery in Central	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
Delta smelt *Hypomesus transpacificus*	Fed: FT State: CT Other: -	Endemic to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in coastal and brackish waters. Occurs seasonally in Suisun and San Pablo bays. Spawning usually occurs in dead-end sloughs and shallow channels.	None. No suitable habitat onsite. Site located outside range of species.
Amphibians			
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	Fed: FT State: CT Other: -	Occurs in annual grassland habitat (<1500 feet) and occasionally in grassy understory of valley-foothill hardwood habitats where lowland aquatic sites are available for breeding. Breeds primarily in vernal pools.	None. No suitable habitat onsite.

Appendix D

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Found primarily in grassland habitats, but may occur in valley and foothill woodlands. Requires vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, or stock ponds for breeding and egg laying. Prefers more turbid pools for predator avoidance.	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	Fed: FT State: SSC Other: -	Occurs in lowlands and foothills in deeper pools and slow-moving streams, usually with emergent wetland vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development.	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Found in partially shaded, shallow streams with rocky substrates. Needs some cobble-sized rocks as a substrate for egg laying. Requires water for 15 weeks for larval transformation.	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
Reptiles			
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Inhabits ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Needs suitable basking sites and upland habitat for egg laying.	None. No water onsite.
Coast horned lizard *Phrynosoma blainvillii*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Open lowlands, washes, and sandy areas with an exposed gravelly-sandy substrate containing scattered shrubs. Edge of Sacramento Valley and in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Also observed in riparian woodland clearings and dry uniform chamise chaparral.	None. Site lacks friable soils; highly disturbed site.
Giant garter snake *Thamnophis gigas*	Fed: FT State: CT Other: -	Primarily associated with marshes and sloughs, less with slow-moving creeks, and absent from larger rivers. Nocturnal retreats include mammal burrows and crevices. During the day, basks on emergent vegetation such as cattails and tules.	None. No suitable habitat (water/canals) onsite.
Birds			
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	Fed: - State: CFP Other: -	Found in lower foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and along river bottomlands or marshes adjacent to oak woodlands. Nests in trees with dense tops.	None. No nesting or foraging habitat onsite.

Appendix D

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Fed: - State: CE Other: CFP	Occurs along shorelines, lake margins, and rivers. Nests in large, old-growth or dominant trees with open branches.	None. No nesting habitat onsite.
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	Fed: - State: CT Other: *	Breeds in open areas with scattered trees; prefers riparian and sparse oak woodland habitats. Requires nearby grasslands, grain fields, or alfalfa for foraging. Rare breeding species in Central Valley.	None. No nesting or foraging habitat onsite.
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	Fed: - State: CFP Other: -	Found in rolling foothill grassland with scattered trees. Nests on cliffs and in large trees in open areas.	None. Site lacks suitable nesting habitat.
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturnculus*	Fed: - State: CT Other: CFP	Inhabits salt, fresh, and brackish water marshes with little daily and/or annual water fluctuations. In freshwater habitats, preference is for dense bulrush and cattails. Several scattered populations documented from Butte Co. to southern Nevada Co.	None. No suitable habitat (wetlands) onsite.
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Found in annual and perennial grasslands. Nests in burrows dug by small mammals, primarily ground squirrels.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Purple martin *Progne subis*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Breeds in riparian woodland, oak woodland, open coniferous forests. Secondary cavity nester. Requires nest sites close to open foraging areas of water or land.	None. Site lacks suitable nesting habitat.
Bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	Fed: - State: CT Other: *	Colonial nester near riparian and oher lowland habitats. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with fine-textured, sandy soils near streams, rivers, and lakes.	None. No suitable habitat (river).
Grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: -	Breeds in grasslands and savannahs in rolling hills and lower mountain hillsides up to 5000 feet elevation.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.

Appendix D

EDH Apartments - Potentially-occurring Special-status Animals

	Status*	Habitat	Probability on Project Site
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	Fed: - State: CE Other: -	Colonial nester in dense cattails, tules, brambles or other dense vegetation. Requires open water, dense vegetation, and open grassy areas for foraging.	None. Site lacks suitable habitat.
Mammals			
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	Fed: - State: SSC Other: *	Occurs in grasslands, woodlands, deserts & urban habitats; open habitat required for foraging. Common in dry habitats with rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices for roosting. Roosts include caves, mines, bridges & occasionally hollow trees, buildings.	None. Site lacks roosting structures.
Fisher - West Coast DPS *Pekania pennanti*	Fed: FPT State: CC Other: SSC	Occurs in intermediate to large-tree stage coniferous forests and riparian woodlands with a high percent level of canopy closure. .	None. No suitable habitat onsite.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	Fed: - State: CSC Other: -	Occurs in dry, open soils in herbaceous, shrub, and forest habitats. Needs friable, uncultivated soil. Preys on rodents.	None. No suitable habitat onsite.

***Status**

Federal:
FE - Federal Endangered
FT - Federal Threatened
FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened
FC - Federal Candidate
FPD - Federal Proposed for Delisting

State:
CE - California Endangered
CT - California Threatened
CR - California Rare
CC - California Candidate
CFP - California Fully Protected
CSC - California Species of Special Concern

Other:
Some species have protection under the other designations, such as the California Department of Forestry Sensitive Species, Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species, U.S.D.A. Forest Service Sensitive Species, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Raptors and their nests are protected by provisions of the California Fish and Game Code. Certain areas, such as wintering areas of the monarch butterfly, may be protected by policies of the California Department of Fish and Game.
WL - CDFG Watch List