

APPENDIX C: SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Special-status species that could occur in the region were identified from lists provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (2006), the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (2006). Additional baseline information on biological resources, including special-status species and their habitats, in the project area were compiled from existing literature, *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats in California* (Mayer and Laudenslayer, 1988), and information contained within the EIS for the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) (City of Sacramento, Sutter County, Reclamation District 1000, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company, 2002), and the Final EIS for the Metro Air Park Project (USFWS, 2001). A list of special status species and their potential for occurrence in the project area is presented in Table C-1.

TABLE C-1
Special-Status Species With Potential to Occur in the Rio Linda, Taylor's Monument, Sacramento East, and Sacramento West U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
<i>Plants</i>				
Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop	<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i>	SE, 1B, G3/S3	Low-terrace species found in shallow water margins of vernal pools	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Legenere	<i>Legenere limosa</i>	1B, G2/S2	Found in wet areas or vernal pools below 400 feet in elevation	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Dwarf downingia	<i>Downingia pusilla</i>	2, G3/S3	Occurs in wet grasslands and vernal pools	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Valley sagittaria	<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	1B		Low, lack of suitable habitat
Rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	2, G4/S2	Found in freshwater marshes and swamps	Moderate, potential habitat in sloughs along the American River
Sanford's arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	1B, G3/S3	Tuberose perennial likely to occurs in drainage or irrigation ditches	Moderate; suitable habitat in project area

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
Invertebrates				
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	FE, G2/S2	Vernal pools in grasslands	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT, G2/S2	Vernal pools of the Central Valley	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Midvalley fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta mesovallensis</i>	SC, G2/S2	Vernal pools in grasslands	Low, lack of suitable habitat
California linderiella fairy shrimp	<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	SC, G2/S2	Vernal pools in grasslands	Low, lack of suitable habitat
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	FT, G3/S2	Riparian forests and grasslands that contain elderberry shrubs	High; found within the Lower American River corridor
Fish				
Sacramento splittail	<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	SOC, CSC, G2/S2	Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta	Moderate; primary habitat is the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, but potential spawning habitat in project area
Central Valley steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FT, G5/S2	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento River system	Moderate to High; uses the lower river for adult and juvenile migration
Delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	FT, ST, G1/S1	Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta	Low; outside species range
Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FT, ST, G5/S1	Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta and upper Sacramento River system	Low; Project area is within critical habitat, but species is believed extirpated
Central Valley fall/late fall-run chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FC, G5/S2	American River below Nimbus Dam	High; uses the lower river for adult and juvenile migration
Central Valley winter-run chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	FE, SE, G5/S1	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	Moderate to Low; outside critical habitat area
Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	CSC, FPT, G3/S1	American River	High; resident of the American River

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
River lamprey	<i>Lampetra ayresi</i>	CSC, G4/S4	American River	High; likely spawn upstream of project, but ammocoetes may use backwaters in project area
Longfin smelt	<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	CSC, G5/S1	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta	Low; outside species range
Pacific lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>	G5	American River	High; likely spawn upstream of project, but ammocoetes may use backwaters in project area
Sacramento perch	<i>Archoplites interruptus</i>	CSC, G3/S1	Sloughs and lakes of the Central Valley	Low; mostly found in reservoirs and ponds, most remaining populations introduced
Reptiles and Amphibians				
Western pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	CSC, G3/G4	Marshes, ponds, streams and ditches that support emergent vegetation	High; suitable habitat and known occurrences within Lower American River corridor
Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	FT, ST, G2/S2	Freshwater emergent marshes and sloughs with slow moving water in the Central Valley	High; known to use agricultural ditches and canals within the Natomas Basin
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	FT, CSC, G4/S2	Pools in streams, seeps, marshes, and ponds	Low; believed extirpated in the Sacramento Valley
California tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	FT, CSC, G2/S2	Annual grassland with ephemeral/ vernal pools	Low; lack of suitable habitat
Western spadefoot toad	<i>Scaphiopus hammondi</i>	CSC, G3/S3	Grasslands, savannas, and open chaparral where natural pools remain	Low; lack of suitable habitat
Birds				

Special-Status Species

TABLE C-1

Special-Status Species With Potential to Occur in the Rio Linda, Taylor's Monument, Sacramento East, and Sacramento West U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
Aleutian Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis leucopareia</i>	G5/S2	Overwinters in California in fields near lakes and ponds. Does not breed in California	Moderate to high; winter resident that could use agricultural fields for foraging
Burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	CSC, G4/S2	Found in open grassland and shrublands	High; suitable nesting habitat is present in project area
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FT, SE, FP, G4/S2	Common winter migrant at reservoirs and flooded fields in the Central Valley	Moderate; occasional winter migrant in the Natomas Basin
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	CSC, G2/S2	Short grasslands and plowed fields	Moderate; winter resident that could use area for foraging
American bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	G4/S3	Marsh habitats	High; known to occur in the Natomas Basin
Least bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis hesperis</i>	CSC, G5/S1	Found in dense emergent vegetation	Low; primarily in the eastern U.S. but small Central Valley population recorded. Not known to occur in the Natomas Basin
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	CSC, G4/S3	Common winter resident in open grasslands and agricultural areas	Moderate; may forage in project area
Red-breasted sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>	G5	Uses woodlands at higher elevations	Moderate; somewhat common in riparian areas and oak groves in the Sacramento area during winter months
Lark sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	G5	Ruderal open areas	High; common in the Sacramento area and likely occur in the Natomas Basin

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	G5/S2	Pastures, grasslands, fallowed fields	Moderate; may forage in project area
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	CSC, G5/S3	Open areas, marshes, and weedy fields	Moderate; may forage in project area
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ST, G5/S2	Prefers habitat along permanent waterways with continuous tree canopy and near grassland or irrigated pasture, alfalfa, or grain fields	High; known to forage and nest along the Lower American River and Natomas Basin
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	CSC, G2/S2	Nest in marshes with dense stands of tules, bulrush, and cattails, or blackberry thickets, and spiny grain crops; forage in grasslands and pastures	Low for nesting; Moderate wintering habitat; One colony is known to occur in the Natomas Basin, on the Conservancy's Betts-Kismat-Silva reserve.
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	CSC, G4/S2	Common inland, nests on lakeshores and in marshes	Low; lack of suitable habitat in project area
Long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	CSC, G4/S2	Winter habitat includes flooded farmfields and pastures in the Central Valley	Moderate; fairly common in Sacramento area during winter and may forage in the Natomas Basin
Lawrence's goldfinch	<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	G3/S3	Prefers dry grassy slopes and chaparral	Low; lack of suitable habitat
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	FP, G5/S3	Open grasslands, meadows, farmlands, and emergent wetlands	High; may forage in project area
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	CSC, G5/S3	Woodlands or streamside groves, especially deciduous	Moderate; may forage near the American River

Special-Status Species

TABLE C-1

Special-Status Species With Potential to Occur in the Rio Linda, Taylor's Monument, Sacramento East, and Sacramento West U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*	Suitable Habitat for the Species	Likelihood to Occur in the Project Area
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	ST, G5/S2	Steep riverbank cliffs, gravel pits, and highway cuts	Moderate to high; suitable nesting habitat along the lower American River
Rufous hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	G5/S1	Primarily occurs in mountainous and foothill regions that support nectar-producing flowers	Moderate; known to occur in Natomas Basin during migration
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	SE, FP, G4/S2	Wetlands and open water areas	Moderate,
Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	ST, FP, G5/S2	Overwinters in the Central Valley and forages in farm fields	Moderate; may seasonally forage in project area
Little willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii brewsteri</i>	G5/S1	Usually associated with riparian forests at higher elevations	Low; Uncommon in Sacramento area. May infrequently occur in riparian habitat in the Natomas Basin.
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	CSC, G4/S4	Year-round range in open farm fields or brushy habitats	Moderate; may use ruderal habitats in project area
Lewis' woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	G4	Open woodlands of interior foothills and Coast Range	Low; outside species range
White-faced ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	CSC, G5/S1	Freshwater and brackish marshes, flooded rice fields	Moderate; may use nearby rice fields
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	SE, FC, G5/S1	Riparian habitat along rivers and streams	Moderate; may use riparian habitat along American River
Mammals				
Pacific western big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii</i>	CSC, G4/S2	Variety of habitats from arid grasslands to coastal conifer forests	Low; lack of suitable roosting sites, may forage in project area
Long-legged myotis bat	<i>Myotis volans</i>	G5/S4	Riparian and arid habitats, and evergreen woodlands	Moderate; lack of suitable roosting sites, may forage in area

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Yuma myotis bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	G5/S4	Open forests and woodlands with water source	Moderate; lack of suitable roosting sites, may forage in area

*** Federal and State**

- SE: California Endangered
- CSC: California Species of Special Concern
- ST: California Threatened
- FE: Federally Endangered
- FT: Federally Threatened
- FP: California Fully Protected Species
- SC: Federal Species of Concern

CNPS

- 1B: Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
- 2: Rare or endangered in California, more common elsewhere

CNDDB:

- G1 = Extremely endangered: <6 viable occurrences (EO's) or <1,000 individuals, or < 2,000 acres of occupied habitat
- G2 = Endangered: about 6-20 EO's or 1,000 - 3,000 individuals, or 2,000 to 10,000 acres of occupied habitat
- G3 = Restricted range, rare: about 21-80 EO's, or 3,000 – 10,000 individuals, or 10,000 – 50,000 acres of occupied habitat
- G4 = Apparently secure; some factors exist to cause some concern such as narrow habitat or continuing threats
- G5 = Demonstrably secure; commonly found throughout its historic range
- S1 = Less than 6 viable Eos or less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres
 - S1.1 = very threatened
 - S1.2 = threatened
 - S1.3 = not very threatened or no current threats known
- S2 = 6-20 Eos OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
 - S2.1 = very threatened
 - S2.2 = threatened
 - S2.3 = not very threatened or no current threats known
- S3 = 21-80 Eos or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
 - S3.1 = very threatened
 - S3.2 = threatened
 - S3.3 = not very threatened or no current threats known
- S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern;
- S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California.