



## SYCAMORE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.

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14 March 2017

Mr. Clint Schue  
2568 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Phone: 775/ 589-2523  
Email: clint@levelbuilds.com

***SUBJECT: Biological Resources Evaluation for the C&J Parcel Map, El Dorado County, CA***

Dear Mr. Schue:

The purpose of this letter is to evaluate the potential for the Project to have a significant impact on any special-status biological resources subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project is a tentative parcel map that would split the existing 38.54-acre APN 037-010-72 into 3 new parcels of minimum 10 acres each. The parcel is zoned rural lands 10-acre (RL-10). The Project submitted a tentative parcel map application to El Dorado County in 2016. The County determined the application was incomplete in a 12 January 2017 letter and identified items necessary for a complete application. Item #3 is an evaluation of special-status biological resources for the Project.

### **BACKGROUND**

***Project Location:*** The Project is located in unincorporated El Dorado County on the Echo Lake USGS topographic quad. The Project is bordered by U.S. Highway 50 and private parcels on the south, the Eldorado National Forest on the north, and private parcels on the east and west. A quad map and aerial photograph of the Project are in Attachment A. The Project is in the South Fork American River watershed (hydrologic unit code 18020129).

***Methods:*** An evaluation of biological resources was conducted to determine whether any special-status plant or wildlife species, their habitats, or sensitive habitats have the potential to occur at the Project. The following documents, maps, and aerial photographs of the Project and surrounding area were reviewed.

- Echo Lake USGS quad map
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map (2017b)
- Google Earth (2017) aerial and ground level photos
- USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (2017a)
- El Dorado County General Plan and EIR (2004a,b)
- NRCS Soil Survey (2017)
- National Hydric Soil List (USDA 2015)
- CalFire Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) Land Cover Map (2006).

A list of federal listed, candidate, or proposed species that potentially occur in or could be affected by the Project was obtained from the USFWS Sacramento Field Office. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was queried for known occurrences of special-status species near the Project. The CNPS online inventory of rare and endangered plants was queried for known occurrences of special-status plants in or near the Project. The results of the database queries (Attachment B) were used to assemble a table of special-status species evaluated (Attachment C).

Special-status species evaluated are species listed (or candidate or proposed) under the federal or state endangered species acts, under the California Native Plant Protection Act, as a California species of special concern or fully protected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), or that are California Rare Plant Rank (Rank) 1 or 2 (CNPS 2017). These classifications are consistent with special-status species definitions in the El Dorado County General Plan EIR (2004b). Special-status biological communities are waters, wetlands, riparian communities, and any biological community ranked S1, S2, or S3 by CDFW (September 2010).

The background information, and a review of the biology of evaluated species and habitats were used to determine the special-status species and sensitive habitats that could occur at the Project. A field survey was not conducted due to the season and depth of snow at the Project.

*Project Description:* The Project parcel is currently zoned to allow the construction of a single-family home. If the parcel map is approved, the Project could result in the construction of two additional single-family homes. The Project does not propose any construction and the specific locations and design of future home cannot be known. The project description considered for impact analysis below is the construction of two additional single-family homes typical for the area, including utility connections and septic systems, and driveways connecting to Highway 50.

## **RESULTS**

*Setting:* The Project site consists of a south-facing slope of mature mixed conifer forest dominated by pines and firs. There is a substantial cover of shrubby understory. The elevation ranges from approximately 7,160 to 7,460 feet. There are no visible areas of substantial rock outcrops or cliffs. A few areas of boulders up to a few feet across are visible. Except for a few small nearly-level areas near Highway 50 the entire site is sloped, some areas very steeply. There are no structures visible on the parcel. There are several cabins and small houses adjacent to the parcel on small private parcels between the site and Highway 50.

Most of the soils on the site are mapped as Tallac very cobbly sandy loam, 2-30% slopes (NRCS 2017). The Tallac series consists of deep (~43 inches) to very deep (~66 inches) moderately well- and well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from glacial deposits. The Tallac series is moderately acidic in the rooting zone. Smaller areas of the site are mapped as Tallac-Cryumbrepts, wet association, 15-30% slopes and Dagget very gravelly loamy coarse sand, moist, 30-70% slopes. The Tallac-Cryumbrepts, wet association soils are mapped in association with a wet meadow on the south side of Highway 50. The wet meadow ranges from approximately 200-800 feet away from the Project parcel. Soils on the Project are not hydric (USDA 2015).

Natural Community and Tree Canopy: The parcel is mapped as conifer forest by CalFire (2006). The parcel is mapped as red fir forest by the El Dorado County General Plan EIR (2004b). The review of aerial and ground level photographs confirms the natural community at the site as a conifer forest dominated by mature pine and fir trees. The General Plan EIR (2004b) does not consider red fir forest, or any of the other coniferous forest types, to be a sensitive natural community. General Plan (2004a) Policy 7.4.4.4 regulates removal of oak woodlands and oak canopy. There are no oak woodlands at the Project, and no individual oak trees are visible on aerial or ground level photographs. The Project will have no impact to any sensitive or special-status upland natural communities or oak woodlands.

Waters and Wetlands: There are no waters or wetlands shown on the USGS Echo Lake quad map or the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map. No waters or wetlands are visible on aerial or ground level photographs. The Project site is sloped and well-drained, reducing the likelihood of any substantial cover of wetlands. The proposed level of land-use, 10-acre minimum parcels, makes the avoidance of any small poorly-drained areas feasible.

There is a ditch on the north side of Highway 50. Much, and perhaps all of the ditch is in the Highway right-of-way. No wetland vegetation is visible in the ditch, and the ditch likely only flows during storms and during spring snowmelt. The ditch is not a relocated channel. Ditches that are not a relocated tributary and don't drain wetlands are not a waters of the U.S. (33 CFR 328.3(b)), and are not subject to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act.

None of the reviewed sources show evidence of any waters or wetlands on the Project. The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on waters or wetlands.

Special-Status Species:

Special-status species for which suitable habitat is not present, or whose distributional limits preclude the possibility of their occurrence in the BSA, are evaluated in Attachment C. The Project is not in designated critical habitat for any species (2017a).

Southern long-toed salamander: This species requires temporary or permanent ponds for breeding. The Project site does not provide breeding habitat. Much of the non-breeding period is spent underground in conifer forests. Migrations between breeding and non-breeding habitat are probably less than 3,280 feet. The nearest CNDDDB record of southern long-toed salamander to the Project site is about 3,900 feet northeast of the Project on the other side of Johnson Pass, down a steep rocky slope, and across Highway 50. The route is an unlikely migration corridor. The next nearest record is about 5,200 feet away, also across Highway 50.

Although the Project site may provide suitable non-breeding habitat for southern long-toed salamander, they are unlikely to inhabit the site in substantial numbers due to the distance to breeding habitat and intervening dispersal barriers. The Project site contains typical conifer forest, and does not provide habitat that is limiting for southern long-toed salamander in the area, such as breeding habitat. The scope of the Project will not result in substantial loss of habitat. The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on southern long-toed salamander or its habitat. The Project will have a less than significant impact on southern long-toed salamander.

Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare: This species may occur in mature conifer forest as found at the Project site, but is more likely to occur in riparian areas or young conifer forest. The Project site does not provide habitat that is limiting for Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare in the area, such as riparian or young

conifer forest. The scope of the Project will not result in substantial loss of habitat. The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare or its habitat. The Project will have a less than significant impact on Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare.

American badger: The Project site provides potential habitat for American badger, which may occur in a wide variety of habitats across much of CA. The Project site does not provide habitat that is limiting for American badger in the area. The scope of the Project will not result in substantial loss of habitat. The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on American badger or its habitat. The Project will have a less than significant impact on American badger.

Davy's sedge: The Project site provides potential habitat for Davy's sedge, a special-status plant. Davy's sedge may occur on dry, often sparse meadows and slopes in subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest. It is known from fewer than 20 extant occurrences in the Sierra Nevada (CNPS 2017, Jepson Flora 2017). The likelihood of occurrence is low because the forest at the project is mature, and there are relatively few open grassy areas between the trees. Due to the limited number of occurrences statewide, any impacts to Davy's sedge would be significant. The following mitigation measure is proposed to avoid any impacts to Davy's sedge.

*Prior to issuance of a building permit, a seasonally appropriate survey for Davy's sedge shall be conducted in the area that could be affected. If Davy's sedge is found, the building plans shall be revised to avoid or minimize impacts to Davy's sedge to the satisfaction of the County.*

## SUMMARY

The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on wildlife, special-status natural communities, or wetlands or waters. The Project could have a substantial adverse effect on Davy's sedge, a special-status plant, if any is present at the site. The likelihood of presence is low. A mitigation measure is proposed to avoid any potential impacts to Davy's sedge. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Cordially,



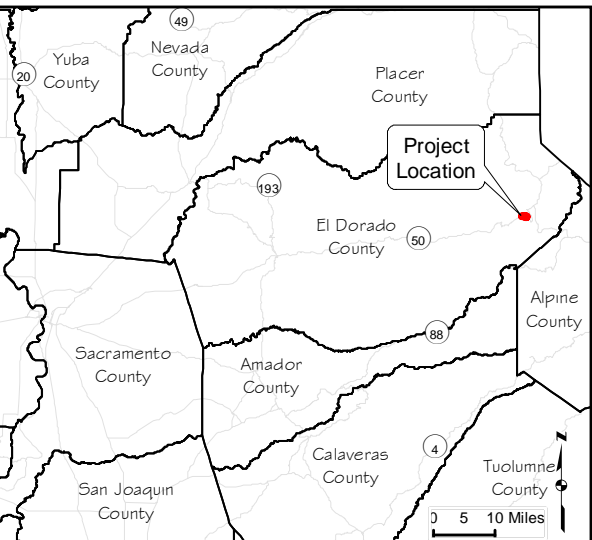
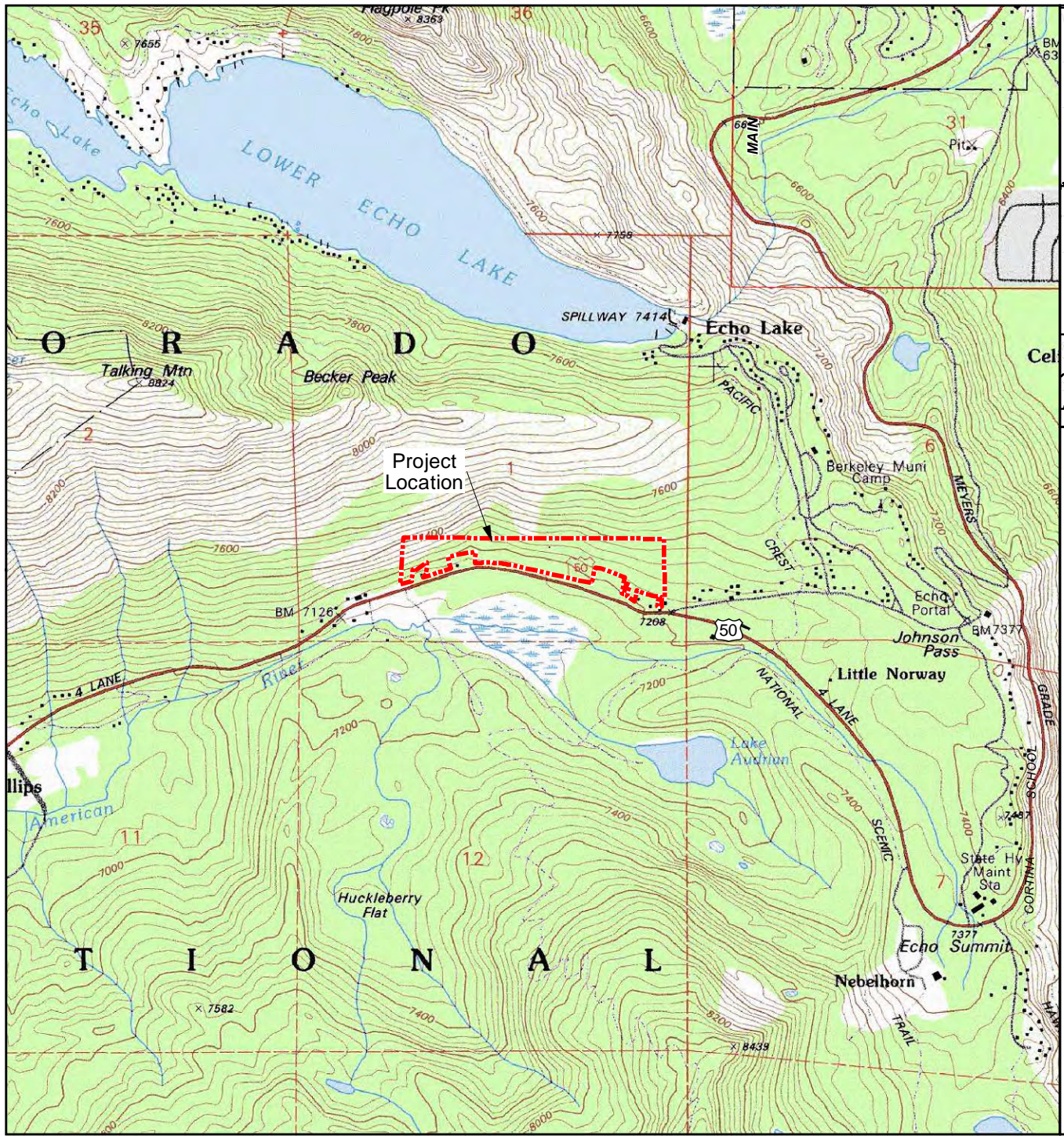
Chuck Hughes, M.S.  
Senior Biologist

- Attachment A. Maps
- Attachment B. Database Queries
- Attachment C. Species Evaluated Table
- Attachment D. Literature Cited

# Attachment A

## Maps

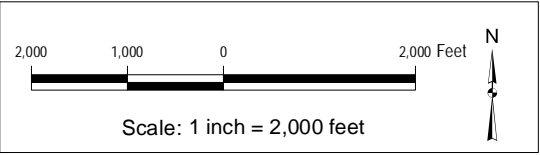
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C & J Tentative Parcel Map  
 El Dorado County, CA  
 1 March 2017

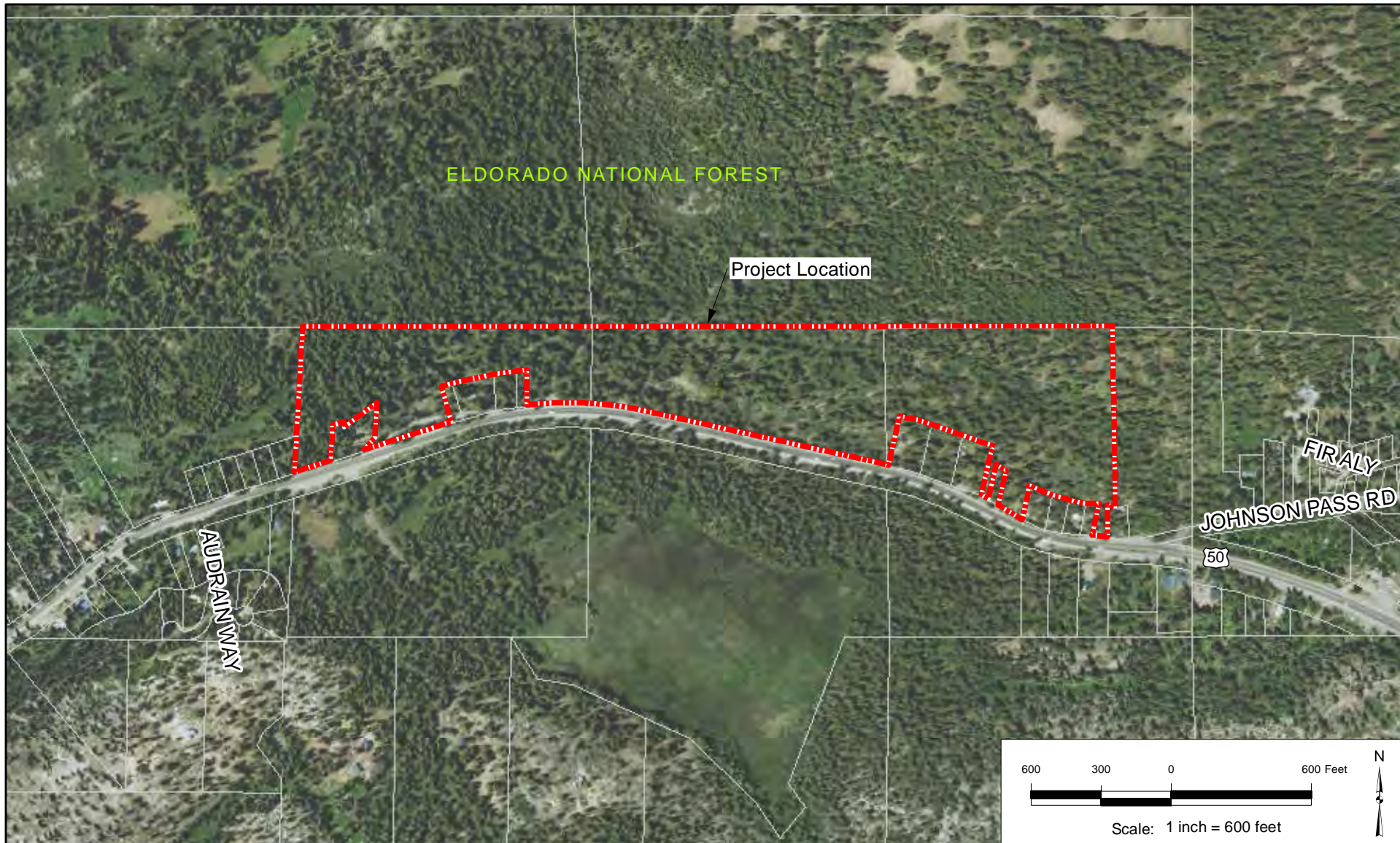
Figure 1. Project Location Map

 Project Location





 **SYCAMORE**  
 Environmental  
 Consultants, Inc.

Echo Lake, CA (1992)  
 CASIL California USGS Digital Raster Graphics (DRG),  
 7.5 Minute (C) Series, Albers Nad83 Mosaics (MrSID)  
 o\_nw0102.sid



C & J Tentative Parcel Map  
 El Dorado County, CA  
 9 March 2017

-  Project Location
-  Parcel Boundaries



Aerial Photograph: 25 July 2014  
 NAIP2014 USDA FSA Imagery  
 ESRI ArcGIS Basemap Layer

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph

# Attachment B

## Database Queries

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# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

FEDERAL BUILDING, 2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605

SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

PHONE: (916)414-6600 FAX: (916)414-6713

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2017-SLI-1105

February 09, 2017

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2017-E-02600

Project Name: Schue Parcel Map Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Please follow the link below to see if your proposed project has the potential to affect other species or their habitats under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service:

[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected\\_species/species\\_list/species\\_lists.html](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected_species/species_list/species_lists.html)

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2)

of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Schue Parcel Map Project

## Official Species List

### Provided by:

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825  
(916) 414-6600

**Consultation Code:** 08ESMF00-2017-SLI-1105

**Event Code:** 08ESMF00-2017-E-02600

**Project Type:** DEVELOPMENT

**Project Name:** Schue Parcel Map Project

**Project Description:** Tentative parcel map

**Please Note:** The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Schue Parcel Map Project

### Project Location Map:



**Project Coordinates:** MULTIPOLYGON (((-120.05486011505128 38.82580065919526, -120.05859375000001 38.82481436575097, -120.0588083267212 38.82877617357419, -120.04460334777833 38.82860901314215, -120.0443458557129 38.824363006566955, -120.04531145095827 38.82439644067873, -120.04606246948242 38.824546893987346, -120.04745721817017 38.82501496891431, -120.04885196685791 38.82536602309009, -120.04990339279175 38.82549975755891, -120.05099773406984 38.82580065919526, -120.05344390869142 38.826068126248835, -120.05486011505128 38.82580065919526)))

**Project Counties:** El Dorado, CA



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Schue Parcel Map Project

## Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 4 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Amphibians	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog ( <i>Rana sierrae</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Endangered	Final designated	
<b>Birds</b>			
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> ) Population: Western U.S. DPS	Threatened	Proposed	
<b>Fishes</b>			
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened	Final designated	
Lahontan cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened		



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Schue Parcel Map Project

## **Critical habitats that lie within your project area**

There are no critical habitats within your project area.



**Selected Elements by Scientific Name**  
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**California Natural Diversity Database**



Query Criteria: Quad> IS <(Echo Lake (3812071))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> northern goshawk	ABNKC12060	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i> southern long-toed salamander	AAAAA01085	None	None	G5T4	S3	SSC
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i> Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	AMAF01013	None	None	G5T3T4	S2S3	SSC
<i>Astragalus austiniae</i> Austin's astragalus	PDFAB0F120	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	None	G2G3	S1	
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i> upswept moonwort	PPOPH010S0	None	None	G3G4	S2	2B.3
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> watershield	PDCAB01010	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
<i>Carex davyi</i> Davy's sedge	PMCYP033H0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<i>Carex limosa</i> mud sedge	PMCYP037K0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
<i>Draba asterophora var. macrocarpa</i> Cup Lake draba	PDBRA110D2	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.1
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> willow flycatcher	ABPAE33040	None	Endangered	G5	S1S2	
<i>Erigeron miser</i> starved daisy	PDAST3M2K0	None	None	G3?	S3?	1B.3
<i>Gulo gulo</i> California wolverine	AMAJF03010	Proposed Threatened	Threatened	G4	S1	FP
<i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i> Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	AMAE03012	None	None	G5T3T4Q	S2?	SSC
<i>Lewisia longipetala</i> long-petaled lewisia	PDPOR040K0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<i>Martes caurina sierrae</i> Sierra marten	AMAJF01014	None	None	G5T3	S3	
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i> fringed myotis	AMACC01090	None	None	G4	S3	
<i>Myotis volans</i> long-legged myotis	AMACC01110	None	None	G5	S3	
<i>Ochotona princeps schisticeps</i> gray-headed pika	AMAEA0102H	None	None	G5T2T4	S2S4	
<i>Pekania pennanti</i> fisher - West Coast DPS	AMAJF01021	Proposed Threatened	Candidate Threatened	G5T2T3Q	S2S3	SSC



Selected Elements by Scientific Name  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Peltigera gowardii</i> western waterfan lichen	NLVER00460	None	None	G3G4	S3	4.2
<i>Picoides arcticus</i> black-backed woodpecker	ABNYF07090	None	None	G5	S2	
<i>Rana sierrae</i> Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	AAABH01340	Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1	WL
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i> water bulrush	PMCYP0Q1G0	None	None	G4G5	S3	2B.3
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> marsh skullcap	PDLAM1U0J0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
<i>Sphagnum Bog</i> Sphagnum Bog	CTT51110CA	None	None	G3	S1.2	
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 27



### Plant List

10 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria

Rare Plant Rank is one of [1B, 2A, 2B], Found in Quad 38120G1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Rare Plant Rank	Federal Listing Status	State Listing Status
<a href="#">Astragalus austiniae</a>	Austin's astragalus	Fabaceae	perennial herb	1B.3		
<a href="#">Botrychium ascendens</a>	upswept moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3		
<a href="#">Brasenia schreberi</a>	watershield	Cabombaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3		
<a href="#">Carex davyi</a>	Davy's sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial herb	1B.3		
<a href="#">Carex limosa</a>	mud sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.2		
<a href="#">Draba asterophora var. macrocarpa</a>	Cup Lake draba	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	1B.1		
<a href="#">Epilobium oregonum</a>	Oregon fireweed	Onagraceae	perennial herb	1B.2		
<a href="#">Lewisia longipetala</a>	long-petaled lewisia	Montiaceae	perennial herb	1B.3		
<a href="#">Schoenoplectus subterminalis</a>	water bulrush	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.3		
<a href="#">Scutellaria galericulata</a>	marsh skullcap	Lamiaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	2B.2		

Suggested Citation

CNPS, Rare Plant Program. 2017. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-02). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 08 February 2017].

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Contributors

[The Calflora Database](#)

[The California Lichen Society](#)

# Attachment C

## Species Evaluated Table

Special-status species from USFWS quad, CNDDDB, and CNPS database queries.

Special-Status Species/ Common Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>a</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in the Study Area?
<b>Fish</b>					
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> Delta smelt	T, CH	E	1	Euryhaline (tolerant of a wide salinity range) species that spawns in freshwater dead-end sloughs and shallow edge-waters of channels of the Delta (USFWS 1994).	No. There is no habitat and the Project is not in the range.
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i> Lahontan cutthroat trout	T	--	1	Non-anadromous, stream-spawning salmonid known from both lake and river habitats. Known only from three natural populations: 1) Western Lahontan basin comprised of Truckee, Carson, and Walker River basins; 2) Northwestern Lahontan basin comprised of Quinn River, Black Rock Desert, and Coyote Lake basins; and 3) Humboldt River basin (USFWS 1995).	No. There is no habitat and the Project is not in the range.
<b>Amphibians</b>					
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i> Southern long-toed salamander	--	SSC	2	Occurs in the Sierra Nevada from the vicinity of the Stanislaus R. north through the mountains of CA. Found primarily in yellow pine, mixed conifer, and red fir forests associated with mountain meadows. Found from near sea level to 9,180 ft. Adults are mostly subterranean except during breeding migrations which are probably less than 3,280 ft. Mostly nocturnal on the surface. Breeds primarily in temporary ponds formed by winter and spring rains and snowmelt. Higher elevation populations may require permanent ponds due to slow larvae development. The few existing populations are very restricted (CWHR 2017).	Yes. See text.
<i>Rana sierrae</i> Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	E, CH	T	1, 2	Occurs above 4,500 ft in the Sierra Nevada from Plumas Co. south to the ridge dividing the middle and south forks of Kings River. Associated with streams, lakes, and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, sub-alpine conifer, and wet meadow habitat types. Always encountered within a few feet of water (CWHR 2017).	No. There are no creeks or other waterbodies.
<b>Birds</b>					
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> Northern goshawk	--	SSC	2	Breeds in the North Coast Ranges and through the Sierra Nevada, Klamath, Cascade, and Warner Mountains. Possibly also breeds in Mt. Piños and San Jacinto, San Bernardino, and White Mts. Remains yearlong in breeding areas as a scarce to uncommon resident. Prefers middle and higher elevations, and mature, dense conifer and deciduous forests. Usually nests on north-facing slopes, near water, in densest parts of stands, but close to openings (CWHR 2017).	No. The site is south-facing, not near water, and most of the conifer forest is not dense.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> Western yellow-billed cuckoo	T, PCH	E	1	Uncommon to rare summer resident of valley foothill and desert riparian habitats in scattered locations in CA. Breeding populations known from the Colorado River, Sacramento and Owens valleys, along the South Fork of the Kern River (Kern Co.), along the Santa Ana River (Riverside Co.), and along the Amargosa River (Inyo & San Bernardino cos). They may also nest along San Luis Rey River (San Diego Co.). Nests in dense cover of deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows, which usually abut a slow-moving watercourse, backwater or seep. Also utilizes adjacent orchards, especially walnuts, in the Central Valley (CWHR 2017).	No. There is no riparian habitat and the Project is not in the range.

Special-Status Species/ Common Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>a</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in the Study Area?
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> Willow flycatcher	--	E	2	Found in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Prefers open river valleys and large meadows with dense willow thickets close to ground. Occurs in willow thickets from 1,950 to 8,200 ft (CWHR 2017).	No. There is no wet meadow or riparian habitat.
<b>Mammals</b>					
<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i> Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	--	CSC	2	Uncommon in the Sierra Nevada. Occurs in dense riparian-deciduous and open brushy stages of most forest types. Typical habitat in the Sierra Nevada is montane riparian. They frequent open and intermediate-canopy coverage with a dense understory near water. Deep, friable soils and a cool, moist microclimate are required for burrowing. Feed on vegetative parts of plants, mostly thimbleberry, salmonberry, blackberry, dogwood, salal, ferns, lupines, willows, and grasses. Vegetation is stored near a burrow entrance, or in underground chambers. Burrows are located in deep soils in dense thickets, preferably near a stream or spring (CWHR 2017).	No. There are no creeks or other waterbodies.
<i>Gulo gulo luteus</i> California wolverine	PT	T, FP	2	Scarce resident of the north Coast Range and Sierra Nevada. In north coastal areas, habitat consists of Douglas fir and mixed conifer habitats. Habitat elevation range in the North Coast Range is 1,600 to 4,800 ft. In the northern Sierra, habitat consists of mixed conifer, red fir, and lodgepole habitats. Habitat elevation range in the northern Sierra is 4,300 to 7,300 ft. In the southern Sierra, habitats consist of red fir, mixed conifer, lodgepole pine, subalpine conifer, alpine dwarf-shrub; barren, wet meadows; montane chaparral, and Jeffery Pine. Habitat elevation range in the southern Sierra is 6,400 to 10,800 ft (CWHR 2017). California wolverines prefer rocky areas, caves, logs or snags as den sites. They excavate their burrows under shelving rock or in logs, caves, or snags. Wolverines live in remote places, at high elevations, away from human populations. They naturally occur at low densities and are rarely encountered (Verner and Boss 1980). Wolverines were inadvertently photographed during a marten study in the Tahoe National Forest in February 2008. This was the first scientific detection of wolverine in California since the 1920's. Another confirmed sighting in the Tahoe Forest from 2016 may have been the same individual (Kuo 2016).	No. There are no confirmed sightings near the Project. The Project is along Highway 50 in an area of rural residential development.
<i>Lepus americanus tahoensis</i> Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	--	SSC	2	In CA known from the Cascade Range, northern and central high Sierra Nevada, and Warner Mountains from 4,800 to 8,000 ft. Active year-round, but secretive, usually under evergreen bushes, dense thickets of willows or alders, logs, or jumbled piles of fallen trees or shrubs. Seldom in open spaces or mature closed canopy conifer forests. Prefers riparian habitats or young mixed conifer woodland (Bolster 1998, CWHR 2017).	Yes. See text.
<i>Pekania pennanti</i> Fisher	--	T/ SSC	2	Uncommon permanent resident of Sierra Nevada, Cascades, Klamath Mountains, and the north Coast Range. Occurs above 3,200 ft in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades (Jameson and Peeters 2004). Prefers coniferous or deciduous riparian habitats with intermediate to large trees and closed canopies. Canopy closure must be greater than 50% to be suitable habitat. Dens in a variety of protected cavities, brush piles, logs, and upturned trees. Hollow logs, trees, and snags are especially important. Active yearlong, mostly nocturnal and crepuscular. Young born February through May (CWHR 2017). The southern Sierra Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU; defined as south of the Merced River) is listed threatened by CA, and fishers elsewhere as SSC. Today, fisher distribution in CA is represented by two populations: northwestern	No. The Project is not in the current range.

Special-Status Species/ Common Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>a</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in the Study Area?
				California and the southern Sierra Nevada. Fishers apparently no longer inhabit the area between the Pit River in the northern Sierra Nevada/Cascades to the Merced River in the southern Sierra Nevada; a separation of approximately 270 miles. There is little empirical evidence that fishers previously inhabited this gap in the Sierra Nevada (CDFW 2010).	
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	--	SSC	2	Found throughout most of CA except the northern North Coast. Abundant in drier open stages of many shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils. Feeds on fossorial rodents, some reptiles, insects, earthworms, bird eggs, and carrion (CWHR 2017).	Yes. See text.
<b>Plants</b> / CNPS <sup>b</sup>					
<i>Astragalus austiniiae</i> Austin's astragalus	--	--/ 1B.3	2	Perennial herb found on rocky substrates in alpine boulder and rock fields and subalpine coniferous forest. Known from the Lake Tahoe region above 8,000 ft. Blooms May through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as exposed ridges and meadows above timberline.	No. There are no sufficiently rocky areas and the Project is below timberline.
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i> Upswept moonwort	--	--/ 2B.3	2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in mesic substrates in lower montane coniferous forest and meadows and seeps from 4,900 to 8,500 ft. Known from the southern high Cascade Range, high Sierra Nevada, and eastern Sierra Nevada. Sporophytes present July through August (CNPS 2017).	No. There are no wet meadows or similar mesic areas.
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> Watershield	--	--/ 2B.3	2	Aquatic perennial rhizomatous herb found in freshwater marshes and swamps from 100 to 7,200 ft. Known from the Klamath Range, north Coast Range, high Cascade and Sierra Nevada, Sacramento Valley, and Modoc Plateau. Blooms June through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as ponds and slow streams.	No. There are no marshes, wet meadows, creeks, or ponds.
<i>Carex davyi</i> Davy's sedge	--	--/ 1B.3	2	Perennial herb found in subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest from 4,900 to 10,500 ft. Known from fewer than 20 extant occurrences in the northern and central high Sierra Nevada. Blooms May through August (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as dry, often sparse meadows and slopes.	Yes. See text.
<i>Carex limosa</i> Mud sedge	--	--/ 2B.2	2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in bogs and fens, montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps from 3,900 to 8,900 ft. Known from the Klamath Range, high Cascade and Sierra Nevada, and Warner Mts. Blooms June through August (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as sphagnum bogs.	No. There are no marshes, wet meadows, creeks, bogs, or ponds.
<i>Draba asterophora</i> var. <i>macrocarpa</i> Cup Lake draba	--	--/ 1B.1	2	Perennial herb found in rocky subalpine coniferous forest from 8,200 to 9,230 ft. Known only near Cup Lake and Saucer Lake near Ralston Peak in El Dorado County. Blooms from July through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as rock crevices, alpine barrens, and talus, and does not recognize the subspecies.	No. There are no sufficiently rocky areas and the Project is below timberline.
<i>Epilobium oreganum</i> Oregon fireweed	--	--/ 1B.2	2	Perennial herb found in mesic bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, and montane coniferous forest from 1,640 to 7,350 ft. Known from the Klamath Ranges, outer north Coast Ranges, and high Sierra Nevada. Blooms June through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as bogs and small streams.	No. There are no marshes, wet meadows, creeks, or ponds.

Special-Status Species/ Common Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>a</sup>	Source <sup>c</sup>	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur in the Study Area?
<i>Erigeron miser</i> Starved daisy	--	--/1B.3	2	Perennial herb found on rocky substrates in upper montane coniferous forest from 6,000 to 8,600 ft. Known from the northern high Sierra Nevada. Blooms June through October (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as rocky sites.	No. There are no sufficiently rocky areas.
<i>Lewisia longipetala</i> Long-petaled lewisia	--	--/ 1B.3	2	Perennial herb found on granitic substrates in alpine boulder and rock fields, and on mesic and rocky substrates in subalpine coniferous forest from 8,200 to 10,000 ft. Known from the northern and central high Sierra Nevada. Blooms July through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as boulders, rock fields, crevices, scree fed by snow-melt, and subalpine forest.	No. There are no sufficiently rocky areas.
<i>Schoenoplectus subterminalis</i> Water bulrush	--	--/ 2B.3	2	An aquatic emergent perennial rhizomatous herb found in bogs and fens and marshes and swamps on montane lake margins from 2,400 to 7,400 ft. Known from the Klamath Range, and high Cascade and Sierra Nevada. Blooms June through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as fresh lakes and streams low in nutrients.	No. There are no marshes, wet meadows, creeks, or ponds.
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i> Marsh skullcap	--	--/ 2B.2	2	Perennial rhizomatous herb found in lower montane coniferous forest, mesic meadows and seeps, and marshes and swamps from 0 to 6,900 ft. Known from the northern high Sierra Nevada (Tahoe Basin) and Modoc Plateau. Blooms from June through September (CNPS 2017). Jepson Flora (2017) describes the habitat as wet sites in meadows, stream banks, and coniferous forest.	No. There are no marshes, wet meadows, creeks, or ponds.
<b>Biological Communities</b>					
Sphagnum Bog	--	--	2	Bog with <i>Sphagnum</i> sp. moss and low-growing herbaceous perennials and low shrubs. The growing season extends from spring through fall at lower elevations and along the coast. Occurs in cold, highly acidic, permanently waterlogged soils that are low in available nutrients. Incomplete decomposition of peat is common (Holland 1986).	No. This community does not occur in the Project.

<sup>a</sup> **Status:** **E** = Endangered; **T** = Threatened; **P** = Proposed; **C** = Candidate; **R** = California Rare; \* = Possibly extinct;  
**SSC** = CDFW Species of Special Concern; **FP** = DFG Fully Protected; **Prot** = DFG Protected; **CH** = Critical habitat designated.

<sup>b</sup> **CNPS:** **1A** = Presumed Extinct in CA; **1B** = Rare or Endangered (R/E) in CA and elsewhere; **2** = R/E in CA and more common elsewhere; **3** = Need more information; **4** = Plants of limited distribution; **0.1** = Seriously endangered in CA; **0.2** = Fairly endangered in CA; **0.3** = Not very endangered in CA.

<sup>c</sup> **Source:** **1** = USFWS letter. **2** = CNDDDB/CNPS. **3** = Observed or included by Sycamore Environmental.

# Attachment D

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