Orange Coast Farms 2225 Foothill Road (APN 149-160-033) Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California Case No. 18LUP-00000-00327

Biological Resources Survey Report



Prepared for:

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Prepared by:

May 7, 2020

Report prepared by:

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I hereby certify that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I further certify that I was present during the site visit associated with this report.

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<u>May 7, 2020</u> Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Biological Resources Survey Report was prepared for the proposed Orange Coast Farms cannabis cultivation project that is being proposed by Cuyama Farms LLC, on an approximately 78.3-acre parcel located at 2225 Foothill Road, (APN 149-160-033), in the Cuyama area of northern Santa Barbara County, California. This report replaces a July 9, 2019 report which analyzed an earlier version of the project. The property contains several small structures, dirt access roads, and a jujube orchard, but is dominated by fallow, previously farmed agricultural land. The proposed 46.3-acre project area is located on generally level, fallow farm land now occupied by disturbed annual grassland dominated by non-native plant species. Areas of disturbed (ruderal) habitat associated with fence lines and the edges of dirt roads are also present. Several small swales are also present, but runoff from the site would not leave the subject parcel due to the absence of downstream connectivity.

This biological resources evaluation is based on two site visits conducted on April 26, 2019, and April 23, 2020, and therefore does not provide a complete determination of presence/absence for special status species within the survey area. The survey did not cover the blooming period for eight annual plant species, but did include direct observation and evaluation of current onsite and adjacent habitat conditions, review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records documenting occurrence data from the surrounding area, and previous biological survey reports conducted in nearby areas. Based on soil types, elevations, and previous disturbances within the proposed cultivation area, the likelihood of special status plant species occurrence within the project impact area is considered to be very low. No sensitive plant communities or natural communities were observed or are present on the subject parcel.

Several bird species protected under the MBTA and western burrowing owl have a potential to occur, and the non-native annual grassland habitat observed provide opportunities for ground nesting bird activity. The continuity with surrounding large areas of farmlands and grasslands and presence of burrows and prey indicates that San Joaquin kit fox and American badger are potentially present in the area. Habitats within and adjacent to the project may also provide suitable habitat for several special-status reptile species.

Potential impacts to nesting birds, burrowing owl, kit fox, badger, and reptiles were identified in association with the proposed project. To address these impacts a Habitat Protection Plan and Wildlife Movement Plan have been prepare that proposed avoidance and protection measures to minimize any potential for impacts to these species.

INTRODUCTION

This Biological Resources Survey Report has been prepared by Ecological Assets Management LLC (EAM), at the request of Cuyama Farms LLC for their proposed Orange Coast Farms cannabis cultivation project located at 2225 Foothill Road, Cuayama. The survey area consisted of an approximately 46.3-acre project area portion of a 78.3-acre parcel located approximately 2.5 miles south of Highway 166, in the northern portion of Santa Barbara County, California.

This report presents the methods and results of two biological resources surveys conducted on the parcel on April 26, 2019, and April 22, 2020, by EAM biologists Mr. Dwayne Oberhoff and Mr. Bob Sloan and provides current conditions on the subject parcel, and special-status plant and animal species that may be potentially present on or in the vicinity of the subject parcel. The surveys covered the blooming period for most special-status annual plant species that have potential to occur in the area. The survey assessed the potential for special-status wildlife species to be present based on observed conditions and habitat types, historical uses, and CNDDB records.

The report assesses if additional protocol or focused survey efforts are necessary, and whether any biological impacts and effects are likely to occur to special-status species or sensitive or jurisdictional habitats. Avoidance/minimization, protection and mitigation measures have been proposed within this report to minimize any potential for impacts to these special-status species and habitats and are included in the attached Habitat Protection Plan and Wildlife Movement Plan.

SITE LOCATION

The 78.3-acre parcel at 2225 Foothill Road, (APN 149-160-033) is located in the northern portion of Santa Barbara County, California, approximately 2.5 miles south of Highway 166 (refer to Figures 1 and 2). The parcel is located approximately 4.6 miles southwest of the intersection of Highway 166 and Highway 33. The site is surrounded by similar large rural properties dominated by a mixture of agricultural uses and natural habitats.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is proposing 36.62 acres of outdoor in-ground cannabis cultivation in hoop structures. The project site is vacant and one of three lease areas on the property. The other lease areas are developed with various agricultural structures that are not part of the cannabis operation. The cannabis cultivation area will be fenced with an eightfoot high chain link security fence. A 160 square foot (sf) security kiosk and 168 sf restroom structure are proposed in the parking and loading area. The proposed project will include the installation of lighting on 13.5-foot tall poles and on the security gates and fencing and proposed structures. All security lighting will be hooded and directed downward. An existing water well will provide water for the proposed project. The



FIGURE 1. Vicinity map.



Figure 2. Location map of the subject parcel.

project includes the installation of a private onsite wastewater treatment (i.e. septic) system for sewage disposal. The proposed cannabis operation will involve a maximum of five full-time employees on-site from March to December, and a maximum of 24 temporary workers from April to November for planting and harvest operations. The hours of operation will be from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. Access will be via a new driveway from foothill road along the eastern property boundary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The subject parcel is located on the south side of Cuyama Valley and at the northern end of Goode Canyon that flows north from the Sierra Madre Mountains that are located to the south. The Caliente Range is located to the north across the Cuyama Valley. Rainfall in the general area of the subject parcel and associated mountain ranges flows into the Cuyama River and eventually into the Santa Maria River located 41 miles to the west near the city of Santa Maria. No permanent or perennial water features (i.e. creeks, streams, rivers, reservoirs, etc.) are located on or adjacent to the subject parcel. No riparian habitat is located on or adjacent to the subject parcel and the location of the nearest riparian or wetland habitat is unknown. The Cuyama River is located 1.3 miles to the northeast of the Subject parcel, but no riparian habitat is associated with the river along this section.

The subject parcel consists of gently sloping fields with sandy loam soils. Site elevations range from 751 to 765 meters (2,464 to 2,518 feet) above mean sea level. The subject parcel contains a jujube tree orchard, disturbed non-native annual grassland, ruderal habitats, unimproved dirt roads, and active livestock corrals. The proposed cultivation area consist entirely of fallow farmland located in the southern portion of the subject parcel that is dominated by sparse annual non-native grassland habitat. Based on observed features and review of historical aerial photographs, the farmland was last under crops in 2012 (refer to Appendix G) and since 2012 has been utilized as grazing land for livestock. The project area slopes gently to the north, and contains several small, poorly defined swales that do not exhibit bed or bank structure or contain riparian vegetation. The raised roadbed associated with Foothill Road and the ongoing cultivation of adjacent parcels to the north, these swales do not connect with any other drainage features. No trees are present in the proposed cultivation area and thus no impacts to trees will occur.

The University of California Davis, Soil Resource Laboratory website, SoilWeb (<u>http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/</u>), maps two underlying soil associations on the site. Soil conditions observed during the survey included sandy loam soils. The majority of the property including the project area contains Wasioja fine sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes. This well drained loamy soil is found on toeslopes and terraces, and was formed from alluvium. Surface runoff potential is medium. The northwestern corner of the property contains Metz loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes. This somewhat

excessively drained, loamy soil is found on floodplains and toeslopes, and was formed from alluvium. Surface runoff potential is negligible.

SURVEY METHODS

Survey Area

The survey area for this biological resources survey report consisted of the entire 78-acre subject parcel. This area was chosen to ensure full coverage of all adjacent areas and habitats and the potential presence of special-status species and/or habitats. the survey area and proposed cultivation site overlay are shown on Appendix H, Existing Conditions and Habitats Map.

Literature Review

Prior to visiting the survey area, EAM biologists reviewed the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) results for the nine (9) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles to evaluate the potential for occurrence of special-status plant and animal species, and special-status plant communities. Based on the southwestern location of the subject parcel in the Cuyama 7.5-minute quadrangle, the evaluation area ranged from 9.3-mile to 15.6 miles from the subject parcel. The nine (9) 7.5-minute guadrangles reviewed included: Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch quadrangles. This review area exceeds Santa Barbara County's 5-mile radius and was deemed appropriate based on the subject parcel's location within the Cuyama Valley, ongoing uses, historic intensive agriculture on and adjacent to the parcel, limited elevational range, loamy soil conditions, and observed plant communities, because these features severely limit the potential number of special-status plant and animal species likely to be present. In addition to CNDDB results, EAM reviewed available environmental documents and reports conducted in nearby areas for background information and recent findings.

Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation classification and mapping followed Holland's Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California (1986) and was cross-referenced with the updated California Natural Communities List and current alliance and association level taxonomy per A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition (Sawyer et al., 2009) to ensure consistency with current regulatory nomenclature for Special-status Natural Communities. Native plant species taxonomy followed the Jepson Manual, Second Edition (Baldwin et al., 2012), and A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region, California, Second Edition (Smith 1998).

Biological Survey Efforts

EAM biologists Dwayne Oberhoff and Bob Sloan conducted two surveys over the

subject parcel on April 26, 2019, and April 22, 2020, and spent a total of 6.0-person hours walking the site and assessing existing conditions and biological resources. During the site visits, plant communities were characterized, all observed wildlife and plant species were identified, and the potential for occurrence of special-status plants and animals within the Survey Area listed by the CNDDB were evaluated. Plant and animal species observed during the surveys were recorded and are included as appendices to this report (Appendix C and D).

Botanical surveys were consistent with the botanical survey guidelines of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (2009), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (1996), and the CNPS (2001). Plant species observed during the two blooming season surveys were recorded and are included in Appendix C of this report. The two surveys covered the blooming period for most, but not all special-status annual plant species that have a potential to occur within the vicinity, and therefore this report does not provide a complete floristic inventory of the Survey Area.

Wildlife surveys evaluated the character and quality of wildlife habitat within and adjacent to the subject parcel, and an inventory of all wildlife species observed was compiled. The evaluation of wildlife uses within the area was made through field survey observations, current plant communities and conditions, habitat suitability, and known occurrence of various species in the vicinity. Potential for nesting, roosting, or foraging by special-status bird species, including various raptors was also assessed. Photos of notable features were taken, and a representative photo plate is included as Appendix E of this report.

RESULTS

Existing Conditions

The subject parcel is located on the south side of Cuyama Valley and consists of gently sloping fields with sandy loam soils that contains fallow farmland that is dominated by non-native annual grasslands. In addition, other areas of the subject parcel contain a tree orchard (jujube trees), ruderal habitats, unimproved dirt roads, and active livestock corrals. The proposed cultivation area consists of fallow farmland located in the southern portion of the subject parcel and is dominated by sparse annual non-native grassland habitat. Based on observed features and review of historical aerial photographs, the farmland was last under crops in 2012 (refer to Appendix G) and since 2012 it has been utilized as grazing land for livestock. The project area slopes gently to the north, and contains several small, poorly defined swales that do not exhibit bed or bank structure or contain riparian vegetation. Due to ongoing cultivation of adjacent parcels to the north, these swales do not connect with any other drainage features. No trees are present in the proposed cultivation area and thus no impacts to trees will occur.

<u>Soils</u>

The University of California Davis, Soil Resource Laboratory website, SoilWeb (<u>http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/</u>), maps two underlying soil associations on the site. Soil conditions observed during the survey included sandy loam soils. The majority of the property including the project area contains Wasioja fine sandy loam, 5 to 9 percent slopes. This well drained loamy soil is found on toeslopes and terraces, and was formed from alluvium. Surface runoff potential is medium. The northwestern corner of the property contains Metz loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes. This somewhat excessively drained, loamy soil is found on floodplains and toeslopes, and was formed from alluvium. Surface runoff potential is negligible.

Vegetation Communities

The two site visits conducted by EAM biologists thoroughly covered the 78-acre Survey Area, and identified one non-native plant community: California Annual Grassland. The California Annual Grassland observed within the Survey Area has been disturbed by historic and ongoing agricultural practices, existing dirt roads, and livestock grazing. Areas of non-native ruderal habitat are also present in and adjacent to the existing structures and unimproved dirt roadways.

Descriptions of vegetation communities are adapted from current alliance and association level taxonomy per A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition, and Holland (1986), where applicable. Refer to Appendix H (Existing Conditions and Habitats Map) for a vegetation map with a project overlay of the Survey Area. The observed conditions within California Annual Grassland are discussed below.

California Annual Grassland

California Annual Grassland corresponding to the Avena Semi-natural Stands and Bromus-Brachypodium Semi-natural Stands described in the Manual of California Vegetation (2009, second edition) and the Non-native Grassland (element code 42200) described by Holland (1986), is the only plant community present in the proposed cultivation area. The annual grassland habitat was dominated by non-native species including wild oat (Avena spp.), ripgut brome (Bromus diandrus), red-stemmed filaree (Erodium cicutarium), horehound (Marrubium vulgare), red brome (Bromus madritensis), annual fescue (Vulpia myuros), foxtail barley (Hordeum murinum) and yellow star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis). Native forbs observed in grassland areas included common fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii), purple owl's clover (Castilleja exserta), and doveweed (Croton setigerus).

California grasslands can provide foraging, breeding habitat and movement opportunities for many wildlife species. Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) and California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyii*), present on the site, and, along with California mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*), could serve as a prey base for predator animals, including snakes, raptors, American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). Numerous invertebrate species which could provide a food source for lizards, birds and small mammals are typically found within grassland communities. A variety of birds rely on open expanses of grasslands for foraging habitat, and several species nest in grasslands. Bird species expected to occur include, mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), various species of sparrow (Emberizids). Numerous raptor species utilize grassland habitats for foraging also.

Ruderal/Disturbed

Ruderal/disturbed conditions are common along roadsides, in un-maintained urban areas, and other areas that have been significantly altered by construction, agriculture, ornamental landscaping, or other types of regular activities that affect plant composition and growth. If vegetated, these areas are typically dominated by nonnative annual grasses and herbaceous plants adapted to the regular cycle of disturbance from traffic, grading, and weed reduction practices such as mowing and herbicide application. Typical plants consist primarily of introduced species and escaped ornamentals that exhibit clinging seeds, adhesive stems, and rough leaves that assist their invasion and colonization of disturbed or unmaintained lands. This is not a native plant community and is not described in the Manual of California Vegetation (2009) or in Holland's (1986) vegetation classification.

Ruderal or disturbed areas within the property were present along road edges, and around existing structures. These areas exhibited disturbed and compacted soils and were either unvegetated or contained patchy occurrences of non-native weedy plants. Plant species observed within ruderal/disturbed areas included the common annual grass species listed above, summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), yellow star thistle, and red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*).

Hydrologic Features

During the two site visits EAM evaluated the unnamed swales (e.g. watercourses) observed on the subject parcel according to the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) definition and classification (SWRCB 2017). SWRCB classification definitions of watercourses are provided below:

Watercourse – a natural or artificial channel through which water flows.

- Perennial watercourse (Class I*):
 - In the absence of diversions, water is flowing for more than nine months during a typical year;
 - 2. Fish always or seasonally present onsite or includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning; and/or,
 - 3. Spring: an area where there is concentrated discharge of ground water that flows at the ground surface. A spring may flow any part of

the year. For the purpose of this Policy, a spring does not have a defined bed and banks.

Intermittent watercourse (Class II*):

- 1. In the absence of diversions, water is flowing for three to nine months during a typical year;
- 2. Provides aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species;
- 3. Fish always or seasonally present within 1,000 feet downstream; and/or,
- 4. Water is flowing less than three months during a typical year and the stream supports riparian vegetation.

Ephemeral watercourse (Class III*):

- 1. In the absence of diversion, water is flowing less than three months during a typical year.
- 2. The stream does not support riparian vegetation or aquatic life.
- 3. Ephemeral watercourses typically have water flowing for a short duration after precipitation events or snowmelt and show evidence of being capable of sediment transport.

Other watercourses (Class IV*): Class IV watercourses do not support native aquatic species and are man-made, provide established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply, or other beneficial use.

*Except where more restrictive, stream class designations are equivalent to the Forest Practice Rules Water Course and Lake Protection Zone definitions (California Code of Regulations, title 14, Chapter 4, Forest Practice Rules, Subchapters 4, 5, and 6 Forest District Rules, Article 6 Water Course and Lake Protection).

The Cuyama River (an ephemeral Class III watercourse in the section near the subject parcel) is located 1.3 miles to the north of the subject parcel. The subject parcel slopes gently to the north, and contains several small, poorly defined drainage swales that do not exhibit bed or bank structure or contain riparian vegetation or hydric soils. Due to the raised roadbed of Foothill Road and the ongoing cultivation of surrounding parcels to the north, these swales do not connect with any other drainage feature. Only one of the swales on the subject parcel is identified in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), but the NHD shows the swale terminate approximately 0.5-mile to the north of the Subject parcel. Based on the lack of connection to the Cuyama River or other hydrologic features, the drainage swales on site would not be considered Waters of the State.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Special-Status Plant Species

The site visit involved walking the survey area and identifying all plant species observed. Plants were identified to species, or sub-species, with dichotomous keys used as necessary (Hoover, 1970; Munz, 1974; Baldwin, ed. 2012). Special-status plant species known to occur in habitats, elevations, and/or soil types similar to those found on the parcel were the focus of the survey effort. During the April 2019 and 2020 surveys, seventeen (17) vascular plant species were identified. Of the species observed, only six (6) were native plants. A complete list of plant species observed during the survey is provided in Appendix C.

For the purpose of this study, special-status plants are vascular plants listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); those listed or proposed for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); and plants occurring on California Rare Plant Rank 1, 2, 3 and 4, as developed by the CDFW and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Sensitive natural communities are those plant communities listed as rare in the CNDDB.

The specific Rare Plant Rank code definitions are as follows:

- Rank 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California;
- Rank 1B.1 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat);
- Rank 1B.2 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened);
- Rank 1B.3 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known);
- Rank 2 = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere;
- Rank 3 = Plants needing more information (most are species that are taxonomically unresolved; some species on this list meet the definitions of rarity under CNPS and CESA); and
- Rank 4.2 = Plants of limited distribution (watch list), fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened).
- Rank 4.3= Plants of limited distribution (watch list), not very endangered in California.

CNDDB records for the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, and Wells Ranch USGS quadrangles were examined to identify known occurrences of special-status plant species within a nine-quadrangle area surrounding the subject parcel. The CNDDB evaluation area ranged from 9.3 miles to 15.6 miles from the subject parcel due to the location of the subject parcel within the Cuyama quadrangle and this is greater than the 5-mile radius required by the County of Santa Barbara. A total of forty-four (44) sensitive plant species were evaluated for potential to be present in the vicinity of the project area.

The April 2019 and April 2020 focused botanical surveys occurred within the blooming period for thirty-six (36) of the annual and perennial plants listed by the CNDDB (refer to Appendix A), and none of those annuals or any special-status perennial species were observed on within the survey area. The surveys occurred outside the blooming period for the following eight (8) annual plants on the CNDDB list.

- Oval-leaved snapdragon (Antirrhinum ovatum) CNPS List 4.2
- Blakley's spineflower (Chorizanthe blakleyi) CNPS List 1B.3
- Straight-awned spineflower (Chorizanthe rectispina) CNPS List 1B.3
- Mt. Pinos larkspur (Delphinium parryi ssp. purpureum) CNPS List 4.3
- Temblor buckwheat (Eriogonum temblorense) CNPS List 1B.2
- Pine gilia (Gilia leptantha ssp. pinetorum) CNPS List 4.3
- Fort Tejon woolly sunflower (Eriophyllum lanatum var. hallii) CNPS List 1B.1
- San Joaquin bluecurls (Trichostema ovatum) CNPS List 4.2

However, all eight (8) of these species are considered unlikely to be present and are unlikely to be impacted by the proposed cultivation project due to presence of disturbed annual grassland habitat, historic intensive farming, and livestock grazing, and the species' specialized habitat requirements such as specific soil affinities, restricted elevational ranges, or specific habitat associations such as coniferous forest, freshwater seep, marsh, or desert scrub, that are not present in or adjacent to the subject parcel.

Based on evaluation of existing soils, elevation, presence of disturbed annual grassland habitat, historic intensive farming, and livestock grazing on the subject parcel, none of the plant species identified in the CNDDB search are considered likely to be present in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Please refer to Appendix A for additional information on all forty-four (44) plant species evaluated for this report.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

CNDDB records for the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, and Wells Ranch USGS quadrangles were examined to identify known occurrences of special-status wildlife species within a nine-quadrangle area surrounding the subject parcel. The CNDDB evaluation area ranged from 9.3 miles to 15.6 miles from the subject parcel due to the location of the subject parcel within the Cuyama quadrangle and this is greater than the 5-mile radius required by the County of Santa Barbara. A total of forty-five (45) special-status wildlife species were evaluated for potential to be present in the vicinity of the proposed cultivation area (refer to Appendix B). Based on evaluation of soils, habitats present and observed conditions, the following seven (7) wildlife species identified in the CNDDB search are considered to have a potential to be present within the vicinity of the survey area. However, due to the historic intensive farming, livestock grazing, and associated soil disturbances in the proposed cultivation area some of these species have a low potential to be present, and if present, may be transitory. The seven (7) wildlife species include:

- Western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia)
- California glossy snake (Arizona elegans occidentalis)
- Coast horned lizard (Phrynosoma blainvillii)
- San Joaquin coachwhip (Masticophis flagellum ruddocki)
- California horned lark (Eremophila alpestris actia)
- American badger (Taxidea taxus)
- San Joaquin kit fox (Vulpes macrotis mutica)

The remaining special-status animal species identified by the CNDDB search have highly specialized habitat, foraging, nesting, or roosting requirements including ponded water, tidal flats, cliffs and rock outcrops, specific soil textures, riparian vegetation, or desert scrub vegetation. These thirty (30) remaining wildlife species were considered to have no potential to occur or nest within or immediately adjacent to the survey area due to the absence of suitable habitat or nesting requirements. Please refer to Appendix B for complete discussions of the habitat suitability and potential for presence of special-status wildlife species, and nesting birds subject to the MBTA.

The evaluation of special status wildlife species potential occurrence within the survey area was based on current habitats present, a habitat suitability analysis, direct field observations, and an assessment of nearby CNDDB records. It did not include definitive surveys to determine presence or absence following specific protocols. The conclusions and information contained herein, and detailed in Appendix B, were based on review of the CNDDB records and recent biological studies from the region, coupled with our knowledge of the particular species' biology and ecological requirements.

None of the sensitive wildlife species listed in Appendix B were observed during the April 2019 or April 2020 surveys of the survey area and the proposed cultivation area. However, based on the observed conditions, the seven (7) special-status wildlife species listed above have limited potential to be present.

Critical Habitat Identification

Based on review of the U.S. FWS Threatened & Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report (https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html), the site is located over eight miles from the nearest designated Critical Habitat unit.

Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors

The subject parcel is dominated by disturbed non-native habitats with historic and existing agricultural uses. No specific wildlife corridors have been mapped within the parcel, and the parcel does not provide known critical linkage between known important disjunct wildlife habitats. The subject parcel is surrounded by large parcels that are either undeveloped and dominated by non-native annual grasslands utilized for grazing, or intensively farmed (generally carrots in this area). Immediately northwest of the subject parcel, across Foothill Road, is the Cuyama Valley Solar Farm that was constructed in 2017. The solar farm perimeter chain-link fence was held approximately six (6) inches above the ground that created a gap that would allow small wildlife to continue to move through the general area.

The proposed cultivation project will not block wildlife movement through the subject parcel. The proposed cultivation project has incorporated measures into its design that will continue to be permeable for smaller wildlife movement through the subject parcel. This includes designing both the perimeter security fence and hoophouse structures to include a six (6)-inch gap at the bottom of each. This would allow smaller wildlife like American badger, San Joaquin kit fox, rabbits, reptiles, rodents, etc., to continue to move through the area, but prevent movement in and out of the cultivation areas by larger mammals, such as deer. In addition, the proposed cultivation area has numerous interior dirt roads that too will provide corridors for wildlife movement. Due to the security fencing component of the proposed cultivation project, a Wildlife Movement Plan (WMP) has been prepared and is attached to this report (refer to Appendix J, Wildlife Movement Plan).

REGULATORY OVERVIEW

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Of 1977

Regulatory protection for water resources throughout the United States is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U.S. without formal consent from the Corps. Waters of the U.S. includes Special Aquatic Sites (e.g., marine waters, tidal areas, stream channels) and wetlands. Under Section 404, actions in Waters of the U.S. may be subject to either an individual permit or a general permit or may be exempt from regulatory requirements.

No features likely to be subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act are present within the survey area. No impacts to areas within Corps jurisdiction will occur.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act Of 1977

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and its provisions ensure that federally permitted activities comply with the federal Clean Water Act and state water quality laws. Section 401 is implemented through a review process that is conducted by the Regional Water

Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and is triggered by the Corps permitting process. Specifically, the RWQCB certifies via the 401 process that the proposed project complies with applicable effluent limitations, water quality standards, and other conditions of California law.

No features likely to be subject to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act are present within the site. No impacts to areas within RWQCB jurisdiction will occur.

Federal Endangered Species Act Of 1973

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) provides legislation to protect federally listed plant and animal species. Impacts to listed species resulting from the implementation of a project would require the responsible agency or individual to formally consult with the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to determine the extent of impact to a particular species.

This assessment identified the federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox as having a low potential to occur as a transient visitor within the area of the survey area.

California Endangered Species Act

The State of California Endangered Species Act (CESA) ensures legal protection for plants listed as rare or endangered and species of wildlife formally listed as endangered or threatened. The state also lists "Species of Special Concern" based on limited distribution, declining populations, diminishing habitat, or unusual scientific, recreational, or educational value. Under state law, the California Department of Fish and Game is empowered to review projects for their potential to impact state-listed species and California Special Concern species, and their habitats.

This assessment identified the state endangered San Joaquin kit fox as having a low potential to occur as a transient visitor within the area of the subject parcel.

Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code

The CDFW is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California's fish, wildlife, and native plant resources. To meet this responsibility, the law requires any person, state or local government agency, or public utility proposing a project that may impact a river, stream, or lake to notify the CDFG before beginning the project. If the CDFG determines that the project may adversely affect existing fish and wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is required.

No features likely to be subject to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code are present within the survey area. A Streambed Alteration Agreement will not be required as part of the project permitting and implementation process.

Other Sections of the Fish and Game Code

Fully Protected and Protected species may not be taken or possessed without a permit from the Fish and Game Commission and/or the CDFW. Information on these species can be found within section 3511 (birds), section 4700 (mammals), section 5050 (reptiles and amphibians), and section 5515 (fish) of the Fish and Game Code.

No species designated as "Fully Protected" under the Fish and Game Code have the potential to occur within the Survey area.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Of 1918

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all migratory birds, including their eggs, nests, and feathers. The MBTA was originally drafted to put an end to the commercial trade in bird feathers popular in the latter part of the 1800's.

As discussed earlier, the disturbed annual grassland areas provide nesting opportunities for several ground nesting avian species subject to the MBTA. Implementation of the proposed project has a potential to impact the ground nesting California horned lark and western burrowing owl. It is recommended that pre-activity surveys for active nests of all ground-nesting birds and burrowing owls should be conducted prior to grading or construction occurring between February 1 and September 15. Avoidance and protection measures to address potential direct and indirect impacts to nesting birds are included in the attached Habitat Protection Plan (refer to Appendix I).

DISCUSSION

This biological resources assessment documents existing conditions of the subject parcel and proposed cultivation area and identifies potential impacts to special-status species and habitats from the proposed cultivation project based on current biological and regulatory information. This assessment found that the proposed cultivation activities have no potential to impact special-status plant species and habitats due to historic agricultural disturbances such as intensive farming and livestock grazing within the proposed project area, and the absence of native plant communities. However, even though the proposed cultivation area has been disturbed from agricultural activities, the project could impact special-status wildlife species and disturb ground nesting bird species in disturbed annual non-native grassland areas present within the survey area due to the transient nature of these species.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The following impact analysis is intended to support the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process conducted by the County of Santa Barbara acting as the lead agency for the project. Table 1 provides a summary of potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to sensitive habitats and special-status species from project implementation. The potential for special-status plant species to be present is considered to be very low based on CNDDB results for the surrounding nine (9) quadrangle area, existing disturbed conditions, livestock grazing, observed soil types, and absence of native habitats. Additional spring surveys are considered unlikely to identify special-status plants in the survey area. The non-native grassland habitats could provide suitable habitat for resident or transient special-status wildlife species known to the area, including ground nesting birds, reptile species, western burrowing owl, San Joaquin kit fox, and American badger. Potential direct and indirect impacts to these species would be from cultivation area preparation activities such as grubbing and grading of the site. Based on the identified impacts, preparation of a Habitat Protection Plan (HPP), WMP, and compliance with the SWRCB's Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements General Order is required for the project. A HPP has been prepared and is attached to this report (refer to Appendix I).

The proposed project has incorporated design features to ensure the proposed cultivation site will continue to allow movement of smaller wildlife through the site, but prevent larger wildlife from entering the site. Even though no significant restriction of wildlife movement will occur, the proposed cultivation site will incorporate security fencing and therefore, preparation of a Wildlife Movement Plan (WMP) is required and has been prepared (refer to appendix J). No native trees are present within the proposed cultivation area and no trees will be impacted or removed. Therefore, preparation of a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) is not required.

Special-Status Species/Habitat	Direct Impacts	Indirect Impacts	Cumulative Impacts
Non-native Annual Grassland	46.3 acres	None	None
Trees	None	None	None
Sensitive Natural Communities, (wetlands, riparian habitats, etc.)	None	None	None
Reptiles	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None
Nesting Birds	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None
Western Burrowing Owl	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None
San Joaquin Kit Fox	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b and MM BIO-3	None
American Badger	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b	None with Implementation of MM BIO-1b and MM BIO-3	None

Table 1. Project Impact Summary Table.

PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Project impact discussions and mitigation measures follow the format provided in the County's 2017 Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) as shown in Table 2, below. Where required, the appropriate Mitigation Plan (i.e. HPP, WMP), is provided as Appendices (Appendix I and J) to this report.

	1	1
Biological Resources Impact	Mitigation Measures	Residual Significance
Impact BIO-1. Cannabis activities could have adverse effects on unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant or wildlife species.	MM BIO-1a. Tree Protection Plan. MM BIO-1b. Habitat Protection Plan. MM HWR-1a. Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order.	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)
Impact BIO-2. Cannabis activities could have adverse effects on habitats or sensitive natural communities.	MM BIO-1a. Tree Protection Plan. MM BIO-1b. Habitat Protection Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)
Impact BIO-3. Cannabis activities could have adverse effects on the movement or patterns of any native resident or migratory species.	MM BIO-1b. Habitat Protection Plan. MM BIO-3. Wildlife Movement Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)
Impact BIO-4. Cannabis activities may conflict with adopted local plans, policies, or ordinances oriented towards the protection and conservation of biological resources.	MM BIO-1a. Tree Protection Plan. MM BIO-1b. Habitat Protection Plan.	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)
Cumulative Impacts	Mitigations above are required	Less than significant with mitigation (Class II)

Table 2. Summary of FEIR Biological Resource Impacts, Mitigation Measures, andResidual Significance.

Impact BIO-1. Cannabis activities could potentially have adverse effects on unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant or wildlife species.

Special Status Plants

The two focused botanical surveys (April 2019 and April 2020) did not find any special-

status plant species to be present. Based on disturbed site conditions, historic intensive farming activities, livestock grazing, and evaluation of existing soils and habitat conditions, no plant species identified in the CNDDB search are considered to have potential to be present within the proposed cultivation area. Additional floristic surveys are considered unlikely to find special-status plant species to be present based on CNDDB results for the region, observed site conditions, and results of two focused surveys.

No native trees are present within the proposed cultivation area and no native trees will be impacted or removed by the project. Therefore, preparation of a Tree Protection Plan (TPP), per MM BIO-1a, is not required for the project.

Special-Status Fish

No aquatic or riparian habitats are present on or adjacent to the subject parcel and no direct or indirect impacts to any aquatic habitat will occur from the proposed project. Therefore, preparation of a HPP to address impacts to special-status fish is not required for the project.

However, the project will incorporate all requirements of MM HWR-1a Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order by providing evidence of compliance with the SWRCB's requirements to the Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department as a part of the applicable permitting process, before receiving a license from the County.

Nesting Birds and Raptors

Initial preparation activities of the proposed cannabis cultivation site could directly and indirectly impact ground nesting birds and western burrowing owl potentially present in or adjacent to non-native annual grasslands if activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 through September 15). Potential indirect impacts to nesting birds and western burroing owls could occur if they are present near construction related activities causing noise generation and ground disturbance. Direct impacts could occur if active nests are present within the project area. Appendix I of this report includes a HPP per MM BIO-1b to address potential impacts to nesting birds and western burrowing owls within and adjacent to proposed cultivation area.

Pesticide, Herbicide, and Rodenticide Impacts to Special-status Species

Only organic California Department of Food and Agriculture-approved fertilizers, nutrients/supplements, and pest control measures will be utilized by the project. To address agricultural pollutants, the project will comply with MM HWR-1a., SWRCB Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order, by providing evidence of compliance with the SWRCB's requirements to the Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department as a part of the applicable permitting process, before receiving a license from the County.

Other Special-Status, Threatened, or Endangered Individuals and Habitat

Initial preparation activities of the proposed cultivation site could directly and indirectly impact ground nesting birds, western burrowing owl, special-status reptile species, American badger and San Joaquin kit fox, all of which could potentially be found as residents or as transients to the non-native annual grassland habitat present within the proposed cultivation area. Appendix I of this report includes a HPP per MM BIO-1b to address potential impacts to these special-status species by proposing avoidance and protection measures.

Impact BIO-1 Mitigation Measure Summary:

MM BIO-1a, Tree Protection Plan: Not applicable. No native trees are present within the proposed cultivation area.

MM BIO-1b, Habitat Protection Plan: Required to address potential impacts to special-status animal species due to identified potential direct and indirect impacts. Refer to Appendix I of this report for the prepared Habitat Protection Plan.

MM HWR-1a., Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order: Required. Evidence of compliance with SWRCB's requirements to be reviewed and approved by Santa Barbara County Planning and Development prior to issuance of license from the County.

Impact BIO-2. Cannabis activities could have adverse effects on habitats or sensitive natural communities.

Wetlands and Riparian Habitats

No wetland or riparian habitats are present on or adjacent to the subject parcel, and no direct or indirect impacts to these habitats will occur. Cultivation field preparation, ongoing use, and maintenance of existing dirt access roads, and long-term use of the proposed cannabis cultivation area will not result in soil erosion and/or agricultural runoff that could impact offsite drainages and/or the Cuyama River located 1.3 miles to the north. During the site visits it was observed that the identified swales do not cross Foothill Road (via a culvert) along the northern side of the subject parcel and thus do not connect to offsite streams/rivers. In addition, the NHD mapped swale on the western side of the subject parcel, terminates at Foothill Road, but is also shown to terminate at an agricultural field to the north of the subject parcel. However, the project will still incorporate all requirements of MM HWR-1a Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order by providing evidence of compliance with the SWRCB's requirements to the Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department as a part of the applicable permitting process, before receiving a license from the County.

Native Grasslands, Oak Woodlands and Forests, and Individual Native Trees

No native habitats or native trees are present within the proposed cultivation area. The proposed cultivation area is dominated by non-native annual grassland. No impacts to native or sensitive habitats will occur.

Impact BIO-3. Cannabis activities could have adverse effects on the movement or patterns of any native resident or migratory species.

The project Fencing and Security Plan (refer to Appendix F, sheet 1.3) specifies that the entire cultivation site will be enclosed by an 8-foot tall chain link fence with vertical green slats. Numerous gates are also included within the perimeter fencing. To allow movement of smaller wildlife (e.g. badger kit fox, rabbits, rodents, etc.) and prevent movement in and out of the cultivation site by larger mammals (e.g. deer) the chain link fencing will be installed so that the bottom of the fence is held up six (6) inches above the ground surface In addition, the poly film of the hoophouse structures will be held six (6) inches above the ground surface to continue to allow full movement of smaller wildlife through the proposed cultivation site. The subject parcel and project region provide suitable resources to support San Joaquin kit fox and American badger and other common wildlife species. To address potential impacts to wildlife movement, a WMP, per MM BIO-3, has been prepared and is included as Appendix J of this report.

Impact BIO-3 Mitigation Measure Summary:

MM BIO-1b, Habitat Protection Plan: Required. Refer to Appendix I of this report for the HPP.

MM BIO-3, Wildlife Movement Plan: Required for all cannabis cultivation projects that include security fence installation. Refer to Appendix J of this report for the WMP.

Impact BIO-4. Cannabis activities may conflict with adopted local plans, policies, or ordinances oriented towards the protection and conservation of biological resources.

The project is designed to comply with all existing County plans, policies, ordinances, and development standards, and is subject to review and approval by the Planning and Development Department as a part of the permitting process. Implementation of the attached HPP and WMP will further ensure that project activities comply with local plans, policies, and ordinances.

Impact BIO-4 Mitigation Measure Summary:

MM BIO-1a, Tree Protection Plan: Not applicable. No trees will be pruned, damaged, or removed by the project.

MM BIO-1b, Habitat Protection Plan: Required. Refer to Appendix I of this report for the HPP.

CONCLUSION

As documented by this biological assessment, the project has a potential to indirectly and directly impact special-status wildlife species potentially present or transient to the proposed cultivation area. Project compliance with state and county plans, policies, and ordinances, and implementation of the prepared Habitat Protection Plan and Wildlife Movement Plans attached to this report provide avoidance and protection measures that will reduce these impacts to a less than significant (Class II) level.

In addition, incorporation of the biological avoidance and minimization measures and conditions included in the Habitat Protection and Wildlife Movement Plans attached to this report, the Santa Barbara County Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and standard County Land Use requirements, and the State Water Resources Control Board Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements and Cannabis Cultivation Policy, are expected to provide sufficient protection under CEQA for biological resources associated with the proposed cultivation project.

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Appendix A: Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants Occurring in the Vicinity of the Project Site

Appendix A. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDF W	Habitat Requirements	Blooming Period	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Heart-leaved thorn- mint Acanthomintha obovata ssp. cordata	//4.2	Annual herb found on grassy slopes, oak woodland, chaparral. Elevation 0-1500 meters.	April - July	Not present. Although grassland habitats are present, species was not observed during April blooming season surveys. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Mt. Pinos onion Allium howellii var. clokeyi	//1B.3	Perennial bulb, locally common on open slopes, sagebrush scrub, vertic clay at elevations from 1300-1850 meters.	May - June	Not present. Site is 400 meters below species elevational range. Suitable heavy clay soils not present, perennial bulbs unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Howell's onion Allium howellii var. howellii	//4.3	Perennial bulb, found in open slopes, sagebrush scrub. Elevation 1300- 1850 meters.	April – June	Not present . Site is 450 meters below species elevational range. This perennial plant is not present within the project area.
Forked fiddleneck Amsinckia furcata	//4.2	Annual found on semi-barren, loose, shaly slopes at elevations from 50-1000 meters.	February - May	Not present. Species was not observed during April blooming season surveys, and loose shaly slope habitats not present. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
California androsace Androsace elongata ssp. acuta	//4.2	Annual herb, found on dry grassy slopes. Elevation 0- 1200 meters.	February - April	Not present. Although grassland habitats are present, species was not observed during April blooming season surveys. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Oval-leaved snapdragon Antirrhinum ovatum	//4.2	Annual herb, found on heavy, adobe-clay soils on gentle, open slopes, and disturbed areas. Elevation 200-1000 meters.	May - November	Presence unlikely. Suitable heavy adobe clay soils not present. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
Salinas milk-vetch Astragalus macrodon	//4.3	Annual herb; chaparral, grassland and openings in oak woodland habitats on eroded shales or sandstone, or serpentine alluvium. Elevation 300-950 meters.	April - July	Not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys, and suitable soil types are not present. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Heartscale Atriplex cordulata var. cordulata	//1B.2	Annual herb found in saline or alkaline soils at elevations < 70 meters.	April - October	Not present . Site is 700 meters above species elevational range. Suitable alkaline or saline soils not present.
Lost Hills crownscale Atriplex coronata var. vallicola	//1B.2	Annual herb, found on alkaline, often clay substrate in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Elevation 50-635 meters.	April - October	Not present. Suitable clay or alkaline soils not present, site outside listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys
Mojave paintbrush Castilleja plagiotoma	//4.3	Annual herb; occurs in dry sagebrush scrub, pinyon woodland. Elevation 300-2500 meters.	April – June	Not present. Suitable habitat conditions not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.

Appendix A. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDF W	Habitat Requirements	Blooming Period	Project Site Suitability/Observations
California jewelflower Caulanthus californicus	FE/SE/1B.1	Annual herb; occurs in valley and foothill grassland, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation 80-1220 meters.	February - April	Not present. Although grassland habitats are present, species was not observed during April blooming season surveys. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Lemmon's jewelflower Caulanthus lemmonii	//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in valley and foothill grassland, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevation 80-1220 meters.	March - May	Not present. Although grassland habitats are present, species was not observed during April blooming season surveys. Unlikely to occur in agriculturally disturbed project area.
Blakley's spineflower <i>Chorizanthe blakleyi</i>	//1B.3	Annual herb; occurs in chaparral and pinyon and juniper woodland on sand or gravel soils. Elevation 600 to 1600 meters.	May - July	Presence unlikely. Sandy loam soils present, but chaparral and juniper woodland habitats are not. Species unlikely to occur within the site.
Straight-awned spineflower <i>Chorizanthe</i> <i>rectispina</i>	//1B.3	Annual herb; occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub habitats on granite sand or disintegrating shale. Elevation 200 to 1035 meters.	May - July	Presence unlikely. Suitable soils and habitats are not present in the area. Species unlikely to occur within the site.
Mojave spineflower Chorizanthe spinosa	//4.2	Annual herb; occurs in desert scrub. Elevation 6-1300 meters.	March - July	Not present. Suitable habitats are not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Mt. Pinos larkspur Delphinium parryi ssp. purpureum	//4.3	Annual herb; occurs in sagebrush scrub, dry chaparral. Elevation1000-2600 meters.	May - June	Presence unlikely. Suitable habitats not present, site below listed elevational range. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
Recurved larkspur Delphinium recurvatum	//1B.2	Perennial herb. Occurs in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, cismontane woodland on alkaline soils. 3- 685 meters.	March - June	Not present. Suitable habitats not present, site well above listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Umbrella larkspur Delphinium umbraculorum	//1B.3	Perennial herb. Occurs in cismontane woodland. Elevation 400 – 1600 meters.	April – June	Not present. Suitable woodland habitats not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys. Unlikely to be present in disturbed project area.
Kern mallow Eremalche parryi ssp. kernensis	FE//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs on eroded hillsides, alkali flats, shadscale scrub, and valley grassland habitats. Elevation 701290 meters.	March - May	Not present. Suitable eroded alkali soil conditions and habitats not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Hoover's eriastrum <i>Eriastrum hooveri</i>	//4.2	Annual herb; occurs in chenopod scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 50915 meters.	March -July	Not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture.
Cottony buckwheat Eriogonum gossypinum	//4.2	Annual herb; occurs on clay substrate in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 100500 meters.	March - September	Not present. Suitable clay soils not present, site outside listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.

Appendix A. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDF W	Habitat Requirements	Blooming Period	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Protruding buckwheat <i>Eriogonum nudum</i> var. indictum	//4.2	Perennial herb found on clay or serpentinite substrate in chaparral, chenopod scrub, and cismontane woodland, and adjacent open grassy areas. Elevation 220 to 870 meters.	May - October	Presence unlikely. Serpentine or clay soils not present. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
Temblor buckwheat Eriogonum temblorense	//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs on barren clay or sandstone substrate in valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 300-1000 meters.	May - September	Presence unlikely. Suitable barren clay or sandstone soils not present. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
Fort Tejon woolly sunflower <i>Eriophyllum lanatum</i> var. hallii	//1B.1	Perennial herb found in dry sites, woodlands at elevations from 12001500 m.	June - July	Presence unlikely. Suitable habitats not present, site well below listed elevational range. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
San Benito poppy Eschscholzia hypecoides	//4.3	Annual herb; on serpentinite clay in valley and foothill grassland, chaparral, cismontane woodland. Elevation 220 to 1110 meters.	March - June	Not present. Serpentine and clay soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Tejon poppy Eschscholzia Iemmonii ssp. kernensis	//1B.1	Annual herb found in open grassland at elevations from 2001000 m.	March - April	Not present. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Stinkbells Fritillaria agrestis	//4.2	Annual herb; occurs in chaparral, valley grassland, foothill woodland, and wetland riparian areas, on clay or serpentine soils. Elevation10- 1,555 meters.	March - June	Not present. Serpentine or clay soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Cuyama gilia Gilia latiflora ssp. cuyamensis	//4.3	Annual herb; occurs in sandy flats, pinyon/juniper woodland, lower river valleys. Elevation 600-2100 meters.	April - June	Not present. Suitable sandy flats or river valley habitats not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Pine gilia Gilia leptantha ssp. pinetorum	//4.3	Annual herb found on bare summits, open, rocky or sandy, with pines trees at elevations from 9002900 m.	May - July	Presence unlikely. Suitable habitats not present, site below listed elevational range. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
Trumpet-throated gilia Gilia tenuiflora ssp. amplifaucalis	//4.3	Annual herb; occurs in sandy substrate in dry creeks, floodplains, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 30- 900 meters.	March -April	Not present. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Ferris' goldfields Lasthenia ferrisiae	//4.2	Annual herb; occurs in vernal pools or wet saline flats in alkaline clay soil. Elevation- below 700 meters.	February - May	Not present. Suitable clay soils and vernal pool habitat not present, site above listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.

Appendix A. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDF W	Habitat Requirements	Blooming Period	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Coulter's goldfields Lasthenia glabrata ssp. coulteri	//1B.1	Annual herb; occurs in saline places, marshes, playas, vernal pools. Occurs near Soda Lake in Carrizo Plain. Below 1000 meters.	February - June	Not present. Suitable saline marshes and vernal pool habitats not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Pale-yellow layia Layia heterotricha	//1B.1	Annual herb, on clay or alkaline soils in pinyon juniper and cismontane woodlands, valley and foothill grassland. Elevation 110-1,860 meters.	March - June	Not present. Suitable clay or alkaline soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Munz's tidy-tips <i>Layia munzii</i>	//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in cismontane woodland, pinyon juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland, on alkaline or clay soils. Elevation 300-1705 meters.	March -April	Not present. Suitable clay or alkaline soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Jared's pepper- grass Lepidium jaredii ssp. jaredii	//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in valley and foothill grassland in alkaline or adobe soil; 1,100– 3,300 feet.	April -May	Not present. Suitable alkaline or adobe clay soils not present, site below listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Silky lupine <i>Lupinus elatus</i>	//4.3	Perennial herb found in dry forests at elevations from 1500- -3000 m.	June - August	Not present . This perennial plant is not present on the site.
Torrey's box-thorn Lycium torreyi	//4.2	Perennial herb found in creosote bush scrub, desert washes and along streambanks, at elevations below 700 meters.	March - May	Not present . This perennial plant is not present on the site. The only local occurrence is approximately 6 miles east, documented in 1934.
Showy golden madia <i>Madia radiata</i>	//1B.1	Annual herb; occurs in adobe clay in valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, and chenopod scrub. Elevation 25-1,125 meters.	March - May	Not present. Suitable adobe clay soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Davidson's bush- mallow <i>Malacothamnus</i> <i>davidsonii</i>	//1B/2	Perennial shrub found in washes, streambanks at elevations <700 meters.	March - May	Not present . This perennial plant is not present on the site. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Solitary blazing star Mentzelia eremophila	//4.2	Annual found in canyons, rocky slopes and washes, roadsides, creosote-bush scrub at elevations from 600 to 1250 m.	March - May	Not present. Suitable habitats not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
Greene's four o'clock <i>Mirabilis greenei</i>	//4.2	Perennial herb; occurs in northern juniper woodland, foothill woodland, on dry slopes and flats. Elevations below 1000 meters.	May - June	Not present . This perennial plant is not present on the site.
San Joaquin woollythreads <i>Monolopia</i> congdonii	FE//1B.2	Annual herb; occurs in sandy grasslands, shadscale scrub, and alkali sinks. Elevation 90- 700 meters.	February - May	Not present. Suitable alkaline soils not present, site is above listed elevational range. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.

Appendix A. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Plants in the Vicini	ty
of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hil	ls,
Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)	

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDF W	Habitat Requirements	Blooming Period	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Adobe yampah Perideridia pringlei	//4.3	Annual herb; occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, foothill woodland, on serpentine soils. Elevation 610-1390 meters.	April - June	Not present. Suitable serpentine soils not present. Species not observed during April blooming season surveys.
San Joaquin bluecurls <i>Trichostema ovatum</i>	//4.2	Annual found in grassland and disturbed sites at elevations below 300 meters.	July - October	Presence unlikely. Grasslands present have been disturbed by agriculture, and site is over 500 meters above the listed elevational range for the species. Species unlikely to occur onsite.
PLANT/NATURAL COMMUNITIES				
Valley saltbush scrub			Not present	

*FE = Federally Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened; SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened; SR = State Rare; CE = Candidate for Endangered Status; '—' = no status; List 1B – Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 2 – Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; List 4 – Limited distribution (Watch List). Source: California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife March 2019); California Native Plant Society Online Inventory of Rare Plants, accessed March 2019 (online at www.cnps.org); Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (California Department of Fish and Wildlife March 2019).

Appendix B: Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals Occurring in the Vicinity of the Project Site

Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity o the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations
AMPHIBIANS/REPTILES	3		
Bakersfield legless lizard <i>Anniella grinnelli</i>	//SSC	Occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover. Occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather often indicate suitable habitat.	No Potential for Occurrence: The dry - sparsely vegetated, agriculturally disturbed non-native grassland habitats with sandy loam soils and minimal leaf litter do not provide suitable habitat conditions.
California glossy snake Arizona elegans occidentalis	//SSC	Inhabits arid scrub, rocky washes, grasslands, chaparral. Appears to prefer microhabitats of open areas and areas with soil loose enough for easy burrowing.	Potential for Occurrence: Numerous nearby occurrences. The open areas and sandy loam soils of the project site provide potentially suitable habitat.
Northern California legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra</i>	//SSC	Occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover. Moisture is essential. Occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with bush lupine and mock heather.	No Potential for Occurrence: The dry, sparsely vegetated, agriculturally disturbed grassland habitats with sandy loam soils and minimal leaf litter do not provide suitable habitat conditions.
Southern Pacific (western) pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	//SSC	Basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks.	No Potential for Occurrence: No habitat for aquatic or semi-aquatic species is present.
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard <i>Gambelia sila</i>	FE/SE/FP	Semiarid grasslands, alkali flats, and washes of the San Joaquin Valley, and nearby valleys and foothills with loamy, or hardpan soils. Vegetation often includes bunchgrasses, annual grasses, and saltbush.	No Potential for Occurrence: No suitable habitat conditions are present. The nearest known location is from 1979 and is associated with the intact habitats within the Cuyama River over 1.5 miles northeast of the site.
San Joaquin coachwhip Masticophis flagellum ruddocki	//SSC	Occurs in open, dry, treeless areas with little or no cover, including valley grassland and saltbush scrub. Takes refuge in rodent burrows, under shaded vegetation, and under surface objects.	Potential for Occurrence: The disturbed grassland habitat provides suitable conditions.
Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations				
Coast horned lizard Phrynosoma blainvillii	//SSC	Inhabits open areas of sandy soil and low vegetation in valleys, foothills and semiarid mountains. Found in grasslands, coniferous forests, woodlands, and chaparral, with open areas and patches of loose soil. Often found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered shrubs and along dirt roads, and frequently found near ant hills.	Potential for Occurrence: The annual grassland habitat and sandy loam soils provide suitable habitat conditions.				
Coast patchnosed snake Salvadora hexalepis virgultea	//SSC	A southern California species that inhabits semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains.	No Potential for Occurrence: The disturbed grassland habitat does not provide suitable conditions. Not expected to occur within the disturbed project area or be affected by the project.				
Western spadefoot Spea hammondii	//SSC	Inhabits vernal pools primarily in grassland, but also in valley and foothill hardwood woodlands. Requires seasonal pools for breeding and egg-laying.	No Potential for Occurrence: No habitat for aquatic or semi-aquatic species is present.				
BIRDS	BIRDS						
Cooper's hawk Accipiter cooperii	//WL	Nests in a wide variety of habitat types, from riparian woodlands and gray pine–oak woodlands through mixed conifer forests.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.				
Tricolored blackbird Agelaius tricolor	//SSC	(Nesting colony); requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.				
Golden eagle Aquila chrysaetos	//FP	Nests on cliffs and escarpments or in tall trees overlooking open country. Forages in annual grasslands, chaparral, and oak woodlands with plentiful medium and large-sized mammals.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.				
Short-eared owl Asio flammeus	//SSC	Fresh and salt swamps, lowlands. Nests on dry ground in tules/tall grasses.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.				
Western burrowing owl Athene cunicularia	//SSC	Preferred habitat is generally typified by short, sparse vegetation with few shrubs, level to gentle topography and well-drained soils, nests in burrows typically constructed by ground squirrels.	Potentially suitable nesting habitat present. Sparse annual grasslands and ground squirrel burrows onsite may provide nesting habitat. Species could be affected if project activities occur during nesting season.				
Ferruginous hawk Buteo regalis	//WL	Prefers open terrain in plains and foothills where ground squirrels, lagomorphs and other prey are available.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.				

Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity o the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swansoni</i>	/ST/	Plains, dry grassland, farmland, ranch country. Breeds most commonly on northern Great Plains, in prairie regions with scattered groves of trees for nest sites. Less common in dry grassland farther west and in heavily farmed country.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
Mountain plover Charadrius montanus	//SSC	Winters in southern and central California in sparse and/or short grasslands and plowed fields.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Grasslands and open scrub habitats onsite could support this species during the winter, but is not expected to nest onsite or be affected by the project.
Northern harrier Circus hudsonius	//SSC	Occurs in open areas, particularly in grasslands, wet meadows and marshes; requires large areas for foraging.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
Snowy egret <i>Egretta thula</i>	//	Found in wetlands of many types; marshes, riverbanks, lakesides, pools, salt marshes and estuaries. Not found at high altitudes or generally on the coast.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the project area. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
California horned lark Eremophila alpestris actia	//WL	Found in open habitats such as sparse coastal sage scrub, grasslands, coastal plains and fallow grain fields.	Potential suitable nesting habitat present. Sparse annual grasslands onsite may provide nesting habitat, and species could be affected if project activities occur during nesting season.
Prairie falcon Falco mexicanus	MBTA//	Occurs in dry, open terrain that is level or hilly and breeds on cliffs.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
California condor Gymnogyps californianus	FE/SE/FP	Requires large blocks of open savanna, grasslands, and foothill chaparral with large trees, cliffs, and snags for roosting and nesting.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
Loggerhead shrike Lanius ludovicianus	//SSC	Prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
Long-billed curlew Numenius americanus	//WL	High plains, rangeland. In winter, also cultivated land, tideflats, salt marshes. Breeding habitat is mostly native dry grassland and sagebrush prairie. May nest in pastures that are not too heavily grazed, rarely in agricultural fields.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Winter migrant to the project area. Does not nest in the project area.

Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Osprey Pandion haliaetus	//WL	Breeds near freshwater lakes and rivers, using large nests in forks of trees, rocky outcrops, and utility poles. Diet consists almost exclusively of fish.	No suitable nesting habitat present. Not expected to nest or forage within the project area or be affected by the project.
California spotted owl Strix occidentalis occidentalis	//SSC	Breeds and roosts in forests and woodlands with large old trees and snags, high basal areas of trees and snags, dense canopies	No suitable nesting habitat present. Not expected to nest within the project area or be affected by the project.
Le Conte's thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i> //SSC //SSC of creations creat		Desert flats with sparse growth of saltbush. Lives in more open habitats than other thrashers, on dry flats with only scattered low shrubs. Found especially in areas of sparse saltbush, also on creosote bush flats in some areas; mainly where there are a few slightly larger mesquites or cholla cactus.	
Other migratory bird species (nesting)	MBTA//	Woodlands, riparian areas, grasslands, shrublands, and other native habitats provide nesting opportunities for a variety of migratory bird species protected under the MBTA.	
FISH			
Steelhead - southern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> <i>irideus</i> pop. 10	FE//	Fresh water, fast flowing, highly oxygenated, clear, cool stream where riffles tend to predominate pools.	No Potential for Occurrence: No habitat for aquatic species is present.
INVERTEBRATES			
Crotch bumble bee Bombus crotchii	/CE/	Coastal California east towards the Sierra-Cascade Crest in open grasslands and scrub habitats. Nesting occurs underground. Feeds on buckwheat, bush poppy, and snapdragons.	No suitable habitat present. Open grasslands present, but suitable forage plants not present. Not expected to occur within Survey Area or be affected by the project.
Kern primrose sphinx moth <i>Euproserpinus euterpe</i>	FT//	Habitat for this moth is desert scrub, particularly in and around washes. Restricted reproduction whereas eggs are laid on host plant, <i>Camissonia contorta</i> <i>epilobiodes</i> . It has a very restricted distribution and is currently known from only two sites at the southern end of California's Central Valley,	No Potential for Occurrence: No desert scrub habitat for this species is present on the subject parcel.

Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity of the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Morrison's blister beetle <i>Lytta morrisoni</i>	//	Little information on this species. Has been recorded feeding on <i>Gilia</i> <i>tricolor</i> and <i>Linanthus liniflorus</i> .	No Potential for Occurrence: Forage plants for this beetle are not present on subject parcel.
Ventura cuckoo wasp Minymischa ventura	ntura cuckoo wasp // No information available.		No information available.
MAMMALS			
Nelson's antelope squirrel Ammospermophilus nelsoni	/ST/	Western San Joaquin Valley from 200-1200 ft. elevation on dry, sparsely vegetated loam soils. Known to extend into Cuyama Valley. Digs burrows or uses kangaroo rat burrows. Needs widely scattered shrubs, forbs & grasses in broken terrain with gullies & washes.	No Potential for Occurrence: Grassland habitats are present, but the site is 430 meters above the upper elevational range for this species. Nearest occurrence 6 miles to east and is from 1967. Not expected to occur within the project area or be affected by the project.
Pallid bat Antrozous pallidus	//SSC	Occurs in a variety of habitats from desert to coniferous forest; most closely associated with oak woodland, grassland, and desert scrub in southern California. Roosts in trees, rocky outcrops and crevices in mines and caves.	No suitable roosting habitat present. Species may forage in the vicinity of the site. Not expected to roost within the project area or be affected by the project.
Giant kangaroo rat <i>Dipodomys ingens</i>	FE/SE/	Occurs in grassland and shrub communities on a variety of soil types and slopes. Breeds from January to May. Burrows are often marked by stacks of harvested seed heads.	No Potential for Occurrence : Nearest occurrence is from 1916 and is 4 miles to the north and is identified in the CNDDB as "Possibly Extirpated." Not expected to occur within or be affected by the project.
Tipton kangaroo rat Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides	FE/SE/	Inhabits valley saltbush scrub, valley sink scrub, and grassland habitats located on the San Joaquin Valley floor to 300 feet in elevation.	No Potential for Occurrence: Grassland habitats are present, but are highly disturbed and the site is 500 meters above the upper elevational range for this species. Not expected to occur within the project area or be affected by the project.
Short-nosed kangaroo rat Dipodomys nitratoides brevinasus	//SSC	Found on western side of the San Joaquin Valley in grassland and desert shrub associations; occurs in alkaline soils; needs friable soils; favors flat to gently sloping terrain.	No Potential for Occurrence: The disturbed grassland habitats on loamy soils do not provide suitable conditions. Not expected to occur within or be affected by the project.

Appendix B. Habitat Requirements and Potential for Occurrence of Special-Status Animals in the Vicinity o the Project Site (CNDDB Information from the Ballinger Canyon, Cuyama, Cuyama Peak, Elkhorn Hills, Maricopa, New Cuyama, Salisbury Potrero, Fox Mountain, Wells Ranch USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles)

Species	Status* Fed/CA/CDFW	Habitat Requirements	Project Site Suitability/Observations
Western small-footed myotis <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	//	Found across much of the western half of North America. Within this region, most common in arid and semiarid habitats such as deserts and badlands, but also found in pine or juniper forests, especially at higher elevations.	No suitable roosting habitat present. Species could forage in grasslands in and near the survey area. Not expected to roost within the project area or be affected by the project.
Long-eared myotis <i>Myotis evotis</i>	//	Occurs in semiarid shrublands, shortgrass prairie, and subalpine forests, with habitats ranging from sea level to 2,830 meters. Roosts in a variety of places, including tree cavities, rock crevices, caves, and abandoned buildings.	No suitable roosting habitat present. Species could forage in grasslands in and near the survey area. Not expected to roost within the project area or be affected by the project.
Yuma myotis <i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	//	Found throughout much of western North America in a variety of western lowland habitats, but always close to lakes and ponds. Roosts in caves, attics, buildings, mines, bridges, and similar structures.	No suitable roosting habitat present. Species could forage in grasslands in and near the survey area. Not expected to roost within the project area or be affected by the project.
Tulare grasshopper mouse Onychomys torridus tularensis	//SSC	Hot, arid valleys and scrub deserts in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Requires abundant supply of insects for food.	No Potential for Occurrence: The disturbed grassland habitats on loamy soils do not provide suitable conditions. Not expected to occur within or be affected by the project.
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	FE/SE/	Found in grassland, open shrubby areas, and some agricultural settings. Needs loose textured sandy-soils for burrowing, and suitable prey base consisting of ground squirrels, other small mammals, birds and insects.	Potential for Occurrence : Suitable foraging habitat present in the project area. Ground squirrel burrows are present. Species could occur onsite as a transient at any time.
San Joaquin pocket mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus</i>	//	Typically found in grasslands and blue oak savanna habitats. Needs friable soils.	No Potential for Occurrence: The sparse, heavily disturbed grassland with no shrubs or duff accumulation does not provide suitable conditions. Unlikely to occur or be affected by the project.
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	//SSC	Friable soils and open, uncultivated ground for denning. Preys on burrowing rodents such as ground squirrels.	Potential for Occurrence : Suitable foraging habitat present in the project area. Ground squirrel burrows are present. Species could occur onsite as a transient at any time.

*FE = Federally Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; SSC = California Species of Special Concern; FP = Fully Protected; WL = Watch List; MBTA=Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Source: California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019); Special Animals List (California Department of Fish and Wildlife November 2018).

Appendix C: List of Plant Species Observed on the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Amsinckia menziesii	Small flowered fiddleneck
Astragalus trichopodus	Santa Barbara milk vetch
Bromus diandrus*	Ripgut brome
Bromus hordeaceus*	Soft chess brome
Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*	Red brome
Capsella bursa-pastoris*	Shepherd's purse
Castilleja exserta ssp. exserta	Purple owl's clover
Centaurea solstitialis*	Yellow star thistle
Croton setigerus	Doveweed
Ephedra californica	Desert tea
Erodium cicutarium*	Red-stemmed filaree
Hirschfeldia incana*	Summer mustard
Hordeum murinum ssp. leporinum*	Foxtail barley
Marrubium vulgare*	Horehound
Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle
Sisymbrium altissimum*	Tumble mustard
Trifolium gracilentum	Pinpoint clover

Appendix C – List of Plant Species Observed within the Project Area

* indicates non-native species

Appendix D: List of Animal Species Observed on the Project Site

Scientific Name	Common Name
Reptile	
Sceloporus occidentalis bocourtii	Coast range fence lizard
Birds	
Corvus corax	Raven
Sturnella neglecta	Western meadowlark
Tyrannus verticalis	Western kingbird
Zenaida macroura	Mourning Dove
Mammals	
Canis latrans	Coyote (scat)
Lepus californicus	Black-tailed jackrabbit
Spermophilis beecheyii	California ground squirrel

Appendix D – List of Animal Species Observed During the Survey of the Property

Appendix E: Photo Documentation

• <u>4 Photos</u>



Photo 1: Photo viewing southwest from the northeastern corner of the parcel adjacent to Foothill Road.

April 26, 2019



<u>Photo 2</u>: Photo viewing east from the western portion of the property along the southern property line. Note collection of Russian thistle (*Salsola* spp.) along fence line.

April 26, 2019



Photo 3: Photo viewing west from center of property. Nonnative annual grassland dominates proposed cultivation area. April 26, 2019



Photo 4: Photo viewing west from center of property. Nonnative annual grassland dominates proposed cultivation area. April 26, 2019

Appendix F: Proposed Site Plans

CONTACT LIST -

CIVIL ENGINEER

BETHEL ENGINEERING 2624 AIRPARK DRIVE SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93455 P: 805.934.5767 C: RUSS GARRISON

OWNER

FRANK SUAREZ 2225 FOOTHILL ROAD NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 93254

APPLICANT

CUYAMA FARMS, LLC. 2350 WEST SHAW AVENUE, SUITE 140 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93711 P: 714.497.6057 C: MOE ESSA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PLEINAIRE DESIGN GROUP 3203 LIGHTINING STREET, SUITE 201 SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93455 P: 805.349.9695 C: KEVIN J. SMALL

LAND USE PLANNER

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 1021 ANACAPA STREET, 2nd FLOOR SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101 P: 805.963.7000

FARGEN SURVEYS, INC. 2624 AIRPARK DRIVE, SUITE 210 SANITA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 93455 P: 805.934.5727 C: MARSHALL FARGEN

PUBLIC AGENCIES

SURVEYOR

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT 123 EAST ANAPAMU STREET SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93101 P: 805.568.2000

PROPERTY STATISTICS –

APN#: 149-106-033
 LOT SIZE: 78.27 ACRES
 PREMISES AREA: 46.32 ACRES
 CULTIVATION AREA: 36.62

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION -

THE PROPOSED PROJECT INCLUDES A BEOLIST FOR APPROVAL OF A LINEU USE PERMIT TO ALLOW APPROVAMENTLY 36 AZ ACRES OF OUTDOOR CANNABS CUITUATION IN HOOP STRUCTURES. THE PROJECT STIE IS VACAN'I AND ONE OF THREE LASK AREAS ON THE PROPERTY. THE OTHER LASK AREAS ARE DEVELOPED WITH VANIOUS ASCRUCTURALS STRUCTURES THAT ARE NOT PART OF THE CANNABIS OPERATION. A 120 SF STORAGE SHED & A 10,000 GAL. WATER STORAGE TANK ARE PROPOSED TO BERMAIN. ALL OTHER STRUCTURES. THE OTHER LASK AREAS ARE PROPOSED TO BE REMOVED. THE ADMINISTRUCTURES AND THE AREAS AREAS ARE PROPOSED TO BE REMOVED. THE ADMINIST AND CANNABIS CUITIVATION AREA WILL BE FENCED WITH AN REGIFTFOOT THEID CHAINI UNE CUITIVATION OF ULGHTING ON 13 STOOTTALE PROVIDE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL INCLUDIF HE INSTALLATION OF ULGHTING WATER WELL HOLD LICHTUS OF THE EVOLUTIE ARE PROPOSED IN THE PARKING AND LOADING AREA. THE PROPOSED FOLCET WILL INCLUDIF HE INSTALLATION OF ULGHTING WATER WELL WILL OF A AND ON THE SECURITY CALES AND FENCING AND PROPOSED STRUCTURES. ALL SECURITY LICHTUS WATER WATER TREATMENT (LE SPFIC) SYSTEM FOR SWAGE DISPOSAL. THE PROPOSED FOR ANABES OFFENDING AND AMAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL ON NOVEMBER FOR PARAMINE AND A MAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND A VARIATION OF A 15 HOOT FOR AND AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMUM OF 24 TEMPORARY WORKERS FROM AREIL TO NOVEMBER FOR PARAMING AND ANAXIMIDANY FOR OUTHAL FOR AND ANAXIMIDANY FOR DOUTHAL AND

STRUCTURES 2225 Foothill Road 5/6/2020

Structure ID	Diructure	Ag Existing (st)	Ag Proposed (sf)	Cannabis Rolated7 Yes (Y) or No (N)	Status: Existing (E) or Proposed (P)
	Cold Storage	747	0	N	(E) To be removed
2	Storage Shed	120	120	N	(E) To remain
3	Pump House	137	0	N	(E) To be removed
4	Agricultural Accessory Building	101	0	N	(E) To be removed
5	Storage Container	320	0	N	(E) To be removed
6	Bam	822	0	N	(E) To be removed
7	Storage Shed	120	0	N	(E) To be removed
	Security Kiosk		160	¥.	(N) To be permitted
	Worker Restrooms		168	¥.	(N) To be permitted
	Pesticide Storage		160	¥.	(N) To be permitted
	Total	2,367	608		

- REVISION DATES -

REV.	DATE	BY	APPROVED	COMMENTS
1	2020.05.11	A.O.	K.S.	P.C. COMMENTS
2				
3				
4				

ORANGE COAST FARMS

LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION PERMIT #19LUP-0000-00327

2225 FOOTHILL ROAD NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 93254





EXISTING SITE PLAN

ORANGE COAST FARMS 2225 FOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 93254





PROPOSED SITE PLAN

2225 FOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 93254

ORANGE COAST FARMS

0 50 100 200 SCALE : 1" = 100'-0" NORTH





LIGHTING PLAN



ORANGE COAST FARMS 2225 FOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUVAMA CALIFORNIA 9325

SHEET 1.2





Proposed Pole Lighting Fixture(EL) 7,600 LUMENS

Lighting Fixture (EB) 3,000 LUMENS

LIGHTING NOTES:

ALL OUTDOOR LIGHTING SHALL ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- MOTION-SENSOR SECURITY LIGHTING WILL BE • FULLY-SHIELDED AND ADJUSTED TO POINT 180 DEGREES DIRECTLY AT THE GROUND.
- MOTION-SENSOR SECURITY LIGHTING WILL ٠ REMAIN ON NO LONGER THAN THREE MINUTES AFTER BEING TRIGGERED.
- NO LIGHTING SHALL BE LOCATED IN HOOP • HOUSES
- POLE-MOUNTED LIGHTING AT THE MAIN ENTRY • AND IN THE PARKING LOT THE MINIMUM HEIGHT TO DETER TAMPERING & PREVENT DAMAGE

LEGEND:	
FB - EXTERIOR BUIL	D

 EXTERIOR BUILDING LIGHTING FIXTURE. **EL - EXTERIOR LIGHTING FIXTURE**



NORTH N.T.S.



□ FENCING & SECURITY PLAN

ORANGE COAST FARMS

300 SCALE : 1" = 150'-0" NORTH

VICINITY MAP PLEINAIRE DESIGN GROUE SITE NORTH N.T.S.

FOR MORE INFO REFER TO WILDLIFE

MOVEMENT PLAN ON SHEET 1.13. 7. REFER TO SHEET 1.11 FOR FENCING & SECURITY

DFTAILS.

2020.05.07



LANDSCAPE SCREENING PLAN

ORANGE COAST FARMS











ORANGE COAST FARMS 2225 EOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUVAMA

SHEET 1.5

IYPICAL PLANT LEGEND (PER 100' OF LANDSCAPE SCREENING)							
TREES							
SYMBOL	NAME	COMMENTS	SIZE	WUCOLS	QTY		
Ø	SCHINUS MOLLE PERUVIAN PEPPER TREE	PLANT PER DETAIL A	15 GAL.	LOW	3		
	NAME	COMMENTS	SIZE	WUCOIS	OD		
\otimes	S1 ARCTOSTAPHYLOS 'JOHN DOURLEY' JOHN DOURLEY MANZANITA	PLANT PER DETAIL B	NOTE*	LOW	4		
\bigcirc	52 FRANGULA CALIFORNICA COFFEE BERRY	PLANT PER DETAIL B	NOTE*	V. LOW	3		
\bigotimes	S3 HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA TOYON	PLANT PER DETAIL B	NOTE*	V. LOW	3		
0	RHUS INTEGRIFOLIA		NOTE*	LOW	2		

NOTE*: FOR SHRUB SIZES. 40% SHALL BE 5 GAL. & 60% SHALL BE 1 GAL.

PLANTING LEGEND NOTES

- ALL TREES ARE TO BE STAKED PER DETAIL C/SHEET 1.5
- ALL SHRUES ARE TO BE PLANTED PER D/SHEET 1.5 CONTRACTOR IS TO PROVIDE AN AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM WITH 100% COVERAGE AND SEPARATE SUN/SHADE AND TURF/GROUNDCOVER SYSTEMS, REFER TO IRRIGATION PLANS FOR SPECIFICS OF INSTALLATIONS. 4. CONTRACTOR SHALL NOT DETOUR FROM ANY OF THE PLANT MATERIAL ON THE LIST UNLESS CONSULTING WITH THE
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT FIRST.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL HEADER AT THE EDGE OF ALL TURF TO SHRUB AREAS. SEE DETAILS FOR MATERIAL ALL SHRUB AREAS SHALL RECEIVE A 3" LAYER OF MEDILIM SIZED FIR MULCH 1/2" TO 1" IN DIAMETER TOP SURFACE OF MULCH SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 1" BELOW ANY ADJACENT HARDSCAPE. "GORILLA HAIR" OR POST CONSTRUCTION WASTE WILL NOT
- ALL SLOPE AREAS 3:1 OR GREATER SHALL HAVE JUTE NETTING OR EQUIVALENT SLOPE STABILIZATION MATERIAL APPLIED ON 7.
- TOP OF ANY APPLIED MULCH. 8. ALL PLANT MATERIAL, COLOR, SIZE AND QUANTITIES ARE TO BE VERIFIED WITH OWNER.

GENERAL PLANTING NOTES

- REMOVE ALL DEBRIS, WEEDS, EXCESS MATERIAL AND ROCKS LARGER THAN 3" IN DIAMETER FROM PLANTING AREAS. CROSS RIP ALL TURF AND PLANTING AREAS TO A DEPTH OF 12" AND BLEND THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT INTO THE TILLED SOIL TO A DEPTH OF 6".

 - 2.1. PER 1000 SQUARE FEET 2.1.1. 6 CUBIC YARDS NITROGEN AND IRON FORTIFIED ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENT
- 2.1.2. 14 POUNDS 12-12-12 FERTILIZER
 2.1.3. 15 POUNDS 500 SULFUR
 2.1.3. 15 POUNDS 500 SULFUR
 2.1.3. 15 POUNDS 500 SULFUR
 2.1.3. EXCAVATE THE PLANTING PITS FOR TREES AND SHRUBS TWICE THE DIAMETER AND TWICE THE DEPTH OF THE ROOT BALL
- SCARIFY THE SIDES AND BOTTOM OF THE PIT. THE BACKFILL MIX FOR USE AROUND THE ROOT BALL SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:
- 3.1. PER CUBIC YARD OF SOIL
 - 3.1.1. 1/3 CUBIC YARD NITROGEN STABILIZED FIR BARK 3.1.2. 1 POUND 12-12-12 FERTILIZER

 - 3.1.3. 1 1/2 POUNDS IRON SULFATE (20% IRON) 3.1.4. 2/3 CUBIC YARD TOPSOIL

DESIGN GROUP

2020.05.07

- PLANT TABS SHALL BE AGRIFORM OR APPROVED EQUAL USED AT MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RATE FOR EACH PLANT SIZE
- SOIL AMENDMENT AND BACKFILL MIX ARE PROVIDED FOR BIDDING PURPOSES ONLY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE FOR IN HIS BID FOR A SOIL AGRONOMY REPORT BY AN APPROVED SOIL AGRONOMIST UPON COMPLETION OF THE ROUGH
- GRADING. ACTUAL SOIL AMENDMENTS AND BACKFILL MIX SHALL BE AS PER SOIL AGRONOMISTS REPORT AND
- FINE PRUNE ALL SPECIMENTREES AFTER PLANTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

- The Trouble Act are represented and the provided and the source of the intervidence in the providence in the providence of the providence of the providence in the providence in the providence of the providence

- LANDSLAVE ARCHITELO TO BUGGENAULES. 9. ALL PLANT MATERIAL, COLOR, SIZE AND QUANTITIES ARE TO BE VERIFIED WITH OWNER. 10. ALL SUBSTITUTIONS SHALL BE APPROVED BY LANDSCHE ARCHITECT AND OWNER, PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. 11. ALL FLOW LINES STABLISHED BY GRADING PLAN SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY FINISHE GRADING. MAINTAIN 1.5% MINIMUM FLOW IN ALL PLANTER AREAS.





□ IRRIGATION PLAN



D 1" CONTROL ZONE KIT

ORANGE COAST FARMS 2225 FOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 9325-

TYPICAL IF	RRIGAT	ION EQUIPMEN	T LEGEND (PER 100' C	F LAN	D. SCREEN	NC	3)
SYMBOLS		MANUFACTURER	ITEM	GPM	PATTERN	R	PSI
	TORO	# DL2000 RGP 4-18-01	DRIPLINE @ 18" O.C. TURF	0.009	FLOOD		30
۲	RAINBIRD	# RWS-B-1402	2- PER TREE DEEP ROOT WATER SYSTEM	1.0	360	-	30
0	TORO	# LF-20-PC	SHRUB EMITTER ON RISER	0.03	360		30
⊕	TORO	# T-PR25-9 W/ EMITTER T-DPJ08-A-RED	MULTI-OUTLET EMITTER (9), ONE EMITTER PER SURROUNDING PLANTS	0.29	360	•	30
A-4 1" 6.5	CONTROLLI VALVE SIZE	ER AND STATION NUMBER / GPM FLOW	WITH low, med or high PLANT WATER R	EQUIREMEN	٩T		
6	TORO	# TPVF100	REMOTE CONTROL VALVE INSTALLED	N VALVE BO	x		
•	TORO	# DZK-700-1-MF	DRIP MED. FLOW REMOTE CONTROL V.	ALVE W/ ST	RAINER IN VALVE BOX		
•	TORO	# DZK-700-1-LF	DRIP LOW FLOW REMOTE CONTROL V	LVE W/ STR	RAINER IN VALVE BOX		
	TORO	# 075-SLSC	3/4" QUICKCOUPLING VALVE INSTALLED	D IN VALVE	BOX		
A	TORO	# EVO-OD-4-SC	EVOLUTION SERIES CONTROLLER OUT W/ WIRELESS WEATHER STATION (ET 8	DOOR 4 ST	ATION SOR)		
W	TORO	# EVO-WS	SMART CONNECT WIRELESS WEATHER	SENSOR			
X	NIBCO TORO	# T-113 # T-FCH-H-FIPT	GATE VALVE, LINE SIZE TYPICAL AUTOMATIC FLUSH VALVE. IN	STALLED AT	THE END OF LINE.		
•	TORO	# T-YD-500-34	AIR RELEASE VALVE				
	TORO	# TFS-075	FLOW CONTROL SENSOR				
	GRISWOLD	# 2230	PRESSURE REGULATING MASTER VAL	VE			
	FEBCO	# 825 YA	REDUCED PRESSURE REGULATOR				
5	HAYWARD	# 72	200 MESH STAINLESS STEEL STRAINER	t 1" SIZE, LC	CATE IN 18"X12" VALV	E BC	λ
🖂	WATER ME	TER	EXISTING DOMESTIC: 3/4 TO 1" SIZE				
- All and a second	PVC	SCHEDULE 40	IRRIGATION MAIN, 1" TO 1-1/2" SIZE				
===	PVC	SCHEDULE 40 SCHEDULE 40	4" WIRE SLEEVE, PIPE SLEEVE TO BE T	40 UNDER F WICE THE S	VAVING. SIZE OF LATERAL OR M	JAIN	LINE

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

NORTH

GENERAL: THE RRIGATION SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE OF ALL PLANTING AREAS WITH MINIMUM OVERSPRAY ONTO PAVING, WALKS, WALLS AND EXISTING UTILITIES. THE RRIGATION CONSULTANT DOES NOT ASSUME ANY MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS.

OWNESS RESPONSIBILITES: THE OWNER SHALL BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING "AS BUILT DRAWINGS AND CONTROLLER CHARTS RROM THE INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR. ANY DANGROUDS CONDITIONS THAT MAY OCCUR DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OR LATER MAINTENANCE PERIOD SHALL BE CORRECTED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OR LATER MAINTENANCE PERIOD SHALL BE CORRECTED

INMALDIALLY. SIGNITURCING: NO SUBSTITUTIONS OF MATERIALS SHALL BE ALLOWED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OR LATER MAINTENANCE WITHOUT THE WRITEN CONSENT OF THE BREATION CONSTLATION. LATER PACK CALMANT COMPONENTS SHALL BE ACALLED OUT BREATION CONSTLATION. LATER PACK CALMAN COMPONENT SHALL BE ACALLED OUT DREATION CONSTLATION. LATER PACK CONSTLATION CONSTLATION OF HE RESPONSENT FOR ATTERATIONS OF THE BREATION STREET MAY WEED DOWN WITHING THRESSON.

OBSTRUCTIONS

SCALE : 1" = 8'-0"

WHIT VESTICAL DESTRUCTIONS FROM: STREET LIGHER, REEZ. IN INTERFER WHIT INE SERVIC ANTERNO FT IN ESPANLER HAAD SO. ACTO. FRAVAIT REPORT CONTRACT, THE REGATION CONTRACTION SHALL FELD. AD JUST INFORME SYSTEM BY INSTALLING A CULARETE RECEIL CEN HALF CRUCE SPRNILER HEAD ON EACH SDE OF THE OBSTRUCTION SO AS TO PROVIDE PROFRE CONTRACE. ADJUSTMENTS SHALL BE MADE AT IN ADDITIONAL COST TO THE OWNER. (TYPICAL)

MWELO IRRIGATION NOTES

DESIGN & INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MODEL WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (MWELO) EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2015 DESIGN AND INSTALLATION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: 1. AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION CONTROLLER USING ET OR SOIL MOISTURE

- SENSOR DATA AREA REQUIRED. SENSOR DATA AREA REQUIRED. 1.1. LANDSCAPE WATER METERS (DEDICATED OR PRIVATE) SHALL BE INSTALLED FOR ALL NON-RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE OF 1,000 SQUARE FEET BUT NOT MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET OR OPTIMIZED FOR ALL NON-RESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF 1,000 SQUARE FEET BUT NOT MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET OR
- GREATER.
- 1.2. RESIDENTIAL OVER 5,000 SQUARE FEET.
 RAIN, FREEZE AND WIND SENSORS ARE REQUIRED, AS NEEDED FOR LOCAL CLIMATE. 3 FLOW SENSORS THAT DETECT HIGH FLOW ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL
- FLOW SENSORS THAT DETECT HIGH FLOW ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL NON-RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES AND RESIDENTIAL 5,000 SQUARE FEET.
 PRESSURE REGULATING DEVICES ARE REQUIRED. LOW FLOW WILL
- PRESSURE REGULTING DEVICES ARE REQUIRED. LOW FLOW WILL NEED BOOSTER.
 CHECK VALVE AND ANTI-DRAIN VALVES ARE REQUIRED WHERE LOW HEAD DRAINAGE COULD OCCUR. 6. NO OVERHEAD IRRIGATION WITHIN 24 INCHES OF ANY NON-PERMEABLE
- SURFACE 7. LOW VOLUME (DRIP) IRRIGATION IS REQUIRED ON MULCHED PLANTING
- AREAS. 8 AREAS LESS THAN 10 FEET IN WIDTH IN ANY DIRECTION MUST BE IRRIGATED WITH SUBSURFACE IRRIGATION OR ANOTHER MEANS THAT PRODUCES NO RUNOFF.
- 9. ALL SPRINKLER HEADS MUST DOCUMENT A LOWER QUARTER
- ALL SPRINTLER HEADS MUST DOCUMENT A LOWER QUARTER DISTRIBUTION UNIFORMITY (DULQ) OF 65% OR HIGHER.
 EMISSION DEVICES MUST HAVE MATCHED PRECIPITATION RATES.
 SOIL MANAGEMENT REPORT THAT INCLUDES SOIL ANALYSIS: TEXTURE, INFILTRATION RATE, PH. SOLUBLE SALTS, SODIUM, % ORGANIC,
- RECOMMENDATIONS. SOIL PREPARATION:
- 1. PRIOR TO PLANTING COMPACTED SOIL SHALL BE TRANSFORMED TO A
- FRIABLE CONDITION. 2. INSTALLATION: COMPOST AT A MINIMUM RATE OF FOUR CUBIC YARDS PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET OF PERMEABLE AREA SHALL BE INCORPORATED TO A DEPTH OF 6 INCHES INTO SOIL. IRRIGATION AUDITS:
- 1. LANDSCAPE AUDITS SHALL NOT BE CONDUCTED BY THE PERSON WHO DESIGN OR INSTALLED THE LANDSCAPE AND CONDUCTED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE IA LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION AUDIT OR "WATERSENSE" LABELING AUDIT BY USEPA. 2. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION SUBMITTED TO LOCAL AGENCY FOR APPROVAL.



NORTH N.T.S.

SITE

Ple<u>in**A**ire</u> DESIGN GROUP 2020.05.07









EXISTING STRUCTURES

125 250 SCALE - 1" - 250'-0" NORTH

EXISTING STRUCTURES

2225 Foothill Road 5/5/2020

Structure ID	Name	Square Feet		
1	Cold Storage			
2	Storage Shed	120 137 101		
3	Pump House			
4	AG Accessory Bldg.			
5	Storage Container	320		
6	Barn	822		
7	Storage Shed (Orchard)	120		

2,367 Total

NOTE: NO EXISTING STRUCTURES SHALL BE USED IN THE CANNABIS OPERATION.





STRUCTURE ID#3 - PUMP HOUSE - SOUTH ELEVATION



STRUCTURE ID#5 - STORAGE CONT. - NORTH ELEVATION



STRUCTURE ID#2 - STORAGE SHED - EAST ELEVATION



STRUCTURE ID#4 - AG ACC. BLDG. - NORTH ELEVATION N.T.S.



STRUCTURE ID#6 - BARN

N.T.S.

N.T.S

N.T.S.



STRUCTURE ID#7 - STORAGE SHED - NORTH ELEVATION N.T.S.

VICINITY MAP PLEINAIRE DESIGN GROUP 2020.05.07 SITE NORTH N.T.S.

□ EXISTING STRUCTURES

ORANGE COAST FARMS



2225 FOOTHILL ROAD // NEW CUYAMA, CALIFORNIA 93254

SHEET 1.9



10

10

SCALE : 1" = 5'-0"

NOTE: 1. HOOP PLASTIC FILM (PLOY ETHYLENE) SHALL BE 6" ABOVE GRADE TO ALLOW FOR WILDLIFE MOVEMENT







□ 22' WIDE HOOP STRUCTURE - LAYOUT





LILLILLILLILLI
 EEAR ELEVATION
 FRONTELEVATION
 FRONTEELEVATION
 SID
 NOTES:
 1. LANDINGS, WALKWAYS, & RAMPS ARE TO BE DONE
 AND INSTALLED BY OTHERS, AS REQUIRED TO MEET
 LOCAL HANDING ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

PROPOSED PREFAB RESTROOMS

0 5 10 SCALE : 1" = 5'-0"





PROPOSED STRUCTURES

ORANGE COAST FARMS



DETAILS & NOTES

ORANGE COAST FARMS

SHEET 1.11

WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE WORKSHEET

Mythozone # /Manting Description a	Plant Factor (79)	Wrigation Method b	Brigation Efficiency (K)c	£1W (H4/H)	Landscape Area (inj. R.)	dres .	Estimated Total Water Use (ETWU) e
Regular Landscape An	n#3.	Series .	-		1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		
Very Low	01	dia.	6.81	0.12	1		
Low Screening	0.2	dra	0.81	0.25	38,904.00	3,803,93	815,555.74
Los (17)	0.3	dra	6.81	0.37	2 2103340		
erigated Crop	0.9	dra	0.81	1.13	1.505208.00	1,772,854.44	65.605.628.83
Non-irrighted	0	drip	0.81	0-11-18-	1,300.298.00	2017 B	
	-			Totais .	2,954,412.0	1,782,060.8	63,961,182.5
Special Landscape Are	44	-	-	*			
1				1.0			
2			-		-		
0				-	(
0					5		
12 C				-			
				Totals			
-						ETWICE the	65.961.182.5
Macmum Adjund Water Alignatics (MARIA)							

divorces it/Vianting Description (.g. 1.) front lawn 2.) medium water use planting

(IWD) (Annual fullions Megazied) = (to x 0.82 x (CMF x Area where 0.82 is a conversion factor that converts acree inches per acre per year to gallons per source foo pet year. where the one constraint on the statement of the stateme

Calculations: ape ETAY for Regular Landscape Areas must be 0.55 or below for residential areas, and 0.45 or below for advancements

 stat (130 store (5+2)
 1,782,888.37

 stat (130 store (5+2)
 1,398,812.38

 stat how (5+2)
 1,398,812.38

 straine (130 (5+2)+ (5+2)
 8,84

(107 a Annua (10) 1,782,966.37 Inita (10) 2,954,412,06 pr (1107 (8 - A) 8.42

LANDSCAPE AREA CALCS. FOR WATER USE ESTIMATE 2225 Foothill Road 4/28/2020

 Total area of Site (78.27 ac)
 3,409.441
 Sq. ft.

 Landscape Screening
 38,904
 Sq. ft.

 Cuthvated area
 1,595,209
 Sq. ft.

 20% of alle built out with roads
 2,109,142
 Sq. ft.

 structures etc.
 Balance of site undeveloped
 1,300,299
 Sq. ft.

Water source is by private on site well. Water use is an estimate based on information currently avaiable

PLEINAIRE DESIGN OROUP UNACCENTRATION OF A CONTRACT OF A C





GENERAL NOTES:

- 1. LOT LOCATION
- 1.1. ONE PARKING LOT ON SITE CONSTRUCTED WITH CLASS II ROAD BASE
- 1.2. PARKING LOT WILL CONSIST OF 5 GENERAL PARKING SPOT, 4 RESERVED FOR CARPOOL, & 3 FOR VANPOOL PARKING.
- 2. TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
- 2.1. MAXIMUM 5 PERMANENT EMPLOYEES WILL BE ON-SITE DURING MARCH DECEMBER.
- 2.2. MAXIMUM 24 TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES WILL BE ON-SITE FOR PLANTING & HARVEST ACTIVITIES FROM APRIL NOVEMBER.
- 3. HOURS OF OPERATION
- 3.1. 7:00 AM 4:00 PM, MONDAY SATURDAY

4. TRIP ORIGINS

- 4.1. LABOR COMES FROM THE SANTA MARIA & TAFT AREAS
- 5. TRIP GENERATION
- 5.1. DELIVERIES TO THE SITE WILL AVERAGE ONE TRUCK PER DAY OR LESS AND DURING HARVEST PERIODS (JUNE-NOVEMBER) REFRIGERATED TRUCKS WILL PICK UP HARVESTED PLANTS TWICE A WEEK
- 6.2. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES WILL USE VANPOOLS AND RIDESHARE TO ACCESS SITE.
- 7. TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
- 6.2. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES FROM SANTA MARIA & TAFT WILL USE VANPOOLS TO ACCESS SITE.
- 6.3. WORKERS RESIDING IN AREAS NOT SERVED BY VANPOOLS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO RIDESHARE TO REDUCE THE COST THE COMMUTING.

ORANGE COAST FARMS

SHEET 1.12

Current Current HWY - Ted

NORTH

N.T.S



□ TRANSPORTATION ROUTE MAP

ALL TRAFFIC LEAVES AND ARRIVES VIA KIRSCHENMANN ROAD CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO CUYAMA HIGHWAY CA-166









Appendix G: 2012 and 2018 Aerial Image Comparison





Appendix H: Vegetation Map with Project Footprint Overlay




Appendix I: Habitat Protection Plan

Orange Coast Farms 2225 Foothill Road (APN 149-160-033) Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California Case No. 18LUP-00000-00327

Habitat Protection Plan



Prepared for:

Cuyama Farms, LLC. 2350 West Shaw Avenue, Suite 140 Fresno, CA 93711 P: 714.497.6057 Prepared by:



Original: May 7, 2020 Revised: September 22, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program for Santa Barbara County requires applicants to prepare a Habitat Protection Plan (HPP) for all outdoor cannabis cultivation sites that may impact native or sensitive habitats, or special-status plant or wildlife species. The FEIR states:

"Applicants who apply for a cannabis license for a site that would involve clearing of native vegetation or other sensitive vegetation shall submit a Habitat Protection Plan (HPP) to the County Planning and Development Department. The plan shall apply within areas that have been identified as having a medium to high potential of being occupied by a special-status wildlife species, nesting bird, or a federal or state-listed special-status plant species. The plan shall be prepared by a Planning and Development Department-approved biologist and designed to determine whether protected species, habitat, or sensitive communities may be present, and whether avoidance, minimization or compensatory measures are necessary. Focused species-specific surveys shall be required to determine whether a sensitive species or nesting bird may be present, and shall be conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when that species is active or otherwise identifiable. Where warranted by the findings of initial review, protocol level surveys may also be required. In addition, the HPP shall determine whether specific restoration measures are required where disturbance associated with previous cannabis activities on the property being considered for permitting or licensing has occurred."

This HPP for the proposed Orange Coast Farms cannabis cultivation project is intended to comply with local, state, and federal requirements for special-status species and habitat protection, through implementation of pre-construction surveys, protection and avoidance measures for special-status species in and adjacent to project areas, and monitoring during initial ground disturbance.

Proposed cultivation activities would convert existing non-native annual grassland into cannabis cultivation consisting of hoophouse structures. Based on the biological surveys conducted on the subject parcel in April 2019, and April and August 2020 cultivation site preparation has the potential to impact special-status species. Several protection and avoidance measures are necessary to adequately protect resident and transient special-status species potentially present within the proposed cultivation area. Due to the current non-native vegetation and disturbed nature of the cultivation area no additional restoration or revegetation measures are required for the project.

The following measures shall be implemented by a Planning and Development Department-approved biologist where applicable prior to and during initial project ground disturbance activities.

HABITAT PROTECTION PLAN -SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES AND HABITAT PROTECTION AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES

<u>REPTILES</u>

Impacts to special-status reptile species potentially present in the cultivation area would be direct impacts that would occur during initial grading and grubbing activities. Implementation of the following pre-construction surveys and monitoring would avoide and/or minimize impacts to special-status reptile species.

1) A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for California glossy snake, Coast horned lizard, and San Joaquin coachwhip immediately before initial ground disturbance. If California glossy snake, Coast horned lizard, and San Joaquin coachwhip, or other special-status species are found in the area of disturbance, the qualified biologist shall move the animals to an appropriate location outside the area of disturbance. The relocation shall be identified before construction and shall be selected based on the size and type of habitat present, the potential for negative interactions with resident species, and the species' range.

2) The qualified biologist shall be present and monitor all initial grubbing and grading of the site to capture any displaced California glossy snake, Coast horned lizard, and San Joaquin coachwhip and relocate to an appropriate relocation site outside of the area of disturbance.

NESTING BIRDS

Potential direct and indirect impacts to ground nesting birds have been identified as a potential impact and could occur if ground nesting birds are present within the proposed cultivation areas or near construction related activities causing noise generation. Potential impacts and recommended avoidance and protection measures to western burrowing owl is discussed separately, below. Impacts to ground nesting birds are considered temporary, and would be avoided and/or minimized with the incorporation of the following recommended avoidance and protection measures.

1) To minimize impacts to ground nesting bird species, including special-status species and species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, if work is proposed between February 1 through September 15, a qualified biologist should conduct a pre-construction survey for active bird nests within 250 feet of the limits of the project site (may be limited by property boundaries) within seven (7) days prior to any disturbance activities. If no nesting activity is observed, project activities can proceed.

2) If active nest sites of non-raptor bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and/or California Fish and Game Code Section 3503 are observed within 500 feet of the project area, then the project should be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct impacts of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young. Potential project modifications may include establishing appropriate "no activity" buffers around the nest site. "No activity" buffers shall be at a minimum of 250 feet for non-listed bird species unless the qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting birds. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until young have fledged or the nests become inactive.

3) If construction occurs between February 1 and September 15, the qualified biologist will conduct surveys for nesting raptors in accordance with established CDFW raptor survey protocols. Surveys will cover a minimum of a 0.5-mile radius around the construction area (may be limited by property boundaries). If nesting raptors are detected, the qualified biologist will establish buffers around nests that are sufficient to ensure that nesting activities are not likely to be disrupted or adversely impacted by construction activities. Buffers around active raptor nests will be a minimum of 500 feet for non-listed raptors, unless a qualified biologist determines that smaller buffers would be sufficient to avoid impacts to nesting raptors. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include: the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffers will be maintained until a qualified California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologist has determined that young have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival.

WESTERN BURROWING OWL

Western burrowing owl was determined to have the potential to occur within the project area, due to presence of non-native annual grassland habitat and ground squirrel burrows. Potential direct and indirect impacts to western burrowing owl would only be anticipated to occur during initial construction activities, and are not expected to be significant with the incorporation of the following mitigation measures.

1) A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-activity surveys for the presence of western burrowing owl and/or active burrows within the proposed work area and within 250 feet of the work area (may be limited by property boundaries) no less than fourteen (14) days and no more than thirty (30) days prior to ground disturbing activities. Surveys will be conducted by qualified biologists by walking straight-line transects spaced 20 feet to 60 feet, adjusting for vegetation height and density.

2) Exclusion zones, or no-disturbance buffers, shall be established around all active burrows, if observed. No project-related disturbances should occur within 160 feet of occupied burrows during the nonbreeding season of September 1 through

January 31 or within 250 feet during the breeding season of February 1 through August 31.

3) If an active burrow is observed within 250 feet of the work area during the breeding season, construction activities shall not continue until a qualified biologist confirms the burrow is no longer active. Proposed adjustments to the buffer will be through consultation with the CDFW.

4) If an active burrow is observed within 160 feet of the work area during the nonbreeding season, construction activities shall not continue until a qualified biologist confirms the burrow is no longer active.

5) The qualified biologist, with prior consultation and approval from the CDFW, may institute passive relocation through use of one-way burrow doors that will not allow the owls to reenter the burrow. Then, immediately before the start of construction activities, the biologists shall remove all doors and excavate the burrows to ensure that no animals are present the burrow. The excavated burrows shall then be backfilled.

6) A qualified biologist shall be present during the initial clearing and grading activity. If additional burrowing owl burrows are found, all work should cease until the biologist can complete measures described above for inactive and active burrows. Once all burrowing owl burrows have been excavated, work on the site may resume.

SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX

San Joaquin kit fox is listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act and as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. San Joaquin kit fox is known from the general Cuyama region, and thus has been determined to have the potential to transit or forage within the proposed cultivation area due to presence of non-native grassland habitat, loose soils, and a prey base of California ground squirrels and other rodents. Potential direct and indirect impacts to kit fox would only be anticipated to occur during grading and construction activities, and are not expected to be significant with the incorporation of the following standard avoidance and protection measures.

The following avoidance and protection measures are standard measures to avoid take and reduce impacts to kit fox to an insignificant level. However, the requirements for individual projects may vary depending on the type of project, extent of disturbance, and other project specifics. The typical measures for cumulative and construction-related impacts are as follows:

1) A Planning and Development Department-approved biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys of the project site and immediate surrounding areas (500-foot buffer if access is allowed) for dens (e.g. potential, known, active, atypical, and natal dens) no more than 30 days before the start of construction activities.

- 2) If a kit fox is found in an "atypical" den such as a pipe or culvert, a minimum 50-foot buffer around the "atypical" den shall be established using flagging. If a known kit den is discovered, a minimum buffer of at least 100 feet around the den using fencing or flagging should be established. If a natal den (den in which kit fox young are reared) is discovered, a buffer of at least 200 feet around the den using fencing or flagging should be established. For any natal dens with pups, the den shall have a buffer of at least 500 feet around it using fencing or flagging. If a natal/pupping den is discovered within the project area or within 500-feet of the project boundary, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be immediately notified and under no circumstances should the den be disturbed or destroyed without prior authorization.
- 3) A Planning and Development Department-approved biologist shall conduct a pre-construction kit fox briefing for construction workers to minimize kit fox impacts.
- 4) Include all kit fox protection measures on project plans.
- 5) Require a maximum 20 mph speed limit at the project site during construction.
- 6) All construction activities must cease at dusk.
- 7) Cover excavations deeper than 2 feet at the end of each working day or provide escape ramps for kit fox.
- 8) No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens.
- 9) Inspect pipes, culverts, or similar structures for kit fox before burying, capping, or moving.
- 10) Remove food-related trash from the project site daily.
- 11) If rodenticides and/or herbicides are used, they must be used according to local, state, and federal regulations to prevent secondary poisoning of kit fox.
- 12) If a kit fox is discovered at any time in the project area, all construction must stop and the kit fox shall be allowed to leave the area unharmed. The CDFW and USFWS must be contacted immediately. The appropriate federal and state permits must be obtained before the project can proceed.
- 13) All security fence material will be installed six (6) inches above grade to create a continuous gap along the entire perimeter of the cultivation site in order to allow for wildlife movement by smaller sized animals through the project area. In addition, hoophouse structures shall allow for wildlife movement by smaller animals by holding the poly-film of each hoophouse six (6) inches above grade.

The Wildlife Movement Plan prepared for this project addresses these wildlife movement design features.

14) To confirm kit fox can continue to move through the project site, the security fence and hoophouses will be inspected at least once annually by a Planning and Development Department-approved biologist. Any issues that are identified during the annual inspections that could impact wildlife movement through the site and/or cause entanglement/entrapment of any wildlife shall be repaired and/or corrected immediately.

AMERICAN BADGER

American badger was determined to have the potential to forage within the general are of the subject parcel due to presence of non-native annual grassland habitats and a prey base of ground squirrels and pocket gophers. Potential direct and indirect impacts to American badger would only be anticipated to occur during initial construction activities, and are not expected to be significant with the incorporation of the following avoidance and protection measures.

- A pre-construction survey for active badger dens should be conducted by a qualified biologist within the construction impact footprint and surrounding accessible areas of the subject parcel no more than fourteen (14) days prior to any ground disturbing activities. The survey should evaluate all dens found to determine if they have the potential to be occupied by American badger.
- 2) If pre-construction surveys discover potential badger dens, the Planning and Development Department-approved biologist will evaluate the dens to determine if they are active using a fiber-optic scope, tracking medium, remote camera system, and/or spotlighting at night for a minimum of three days to assess the presence of badgers.
- 3) If the dens prove to be inactive, they shall be excavated by hand with a shovel under the supervision of the qualified biologist to prevent badgers from re-using them during construction.
- 4) If occupied badger dens are located, they shall be flagged, and grounddisturbing activities avoided, within 50 feet of the occupied den during the nonbreeding season (July 1 through February 14). Dens determined to be occupied during the breeding season (15 February through 30 June) shall be flagged, and ground-disturbing activities avoided, within 200 feet to protect adults and nursing young. Buffers may be modified by the qualified biologist, provided the badgers are protected, and shall not be removed until the qualified biologist has determined that the den is no longer in use. Once all badger dens are determined inactive and have been excavated, site preparation activities on the site may resume.

5) For occupied dens observed during the nonbreeding season (July 1 through February 14), badgers should be passively discouraged from using currently active dens prior to ground disturbance activities by partially blocking the entrance of the den with sticks, debris and soil for 3 to 5 days. Access to the den should be incrementally blocked to a greater degree over this period. This should cause the badger to abandon the den and move elsewhere. After badgers have stopped using any den(s) within the ground disturbance footprint, the den(s) should be hand-excavated with a shovel or carefully with an excavator to prevent re-use. Any passive relocation of American badgers shall occur only under the direction of a qualified biologist.

CONCLUSION

Implementation of the above pre-construction surveys, special-status species protection and avoidance measures, and monitoring during ground disturbing activities included in this project Habitat Protection Plan will reduce species and habitat impacts to a less than significant (Class II) level.

Appendix J: Wildlife Movement Plan

Orange Coast Farms 2225 Foothill Road (APN 149-160-033) Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California Case No. 18LUP-00000-00327

Wildlife Movement Plan



Prepared for:

Cuyama Farms, LLC. 2350 West Shaw Avenue, Suite 140 Fresno, CA 93711 P: 714.497.6057



Original: May 7, 2020 Revised: September 22, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program for Santa Barbara County requires applicants to prepare a Wildlife Movement Plan (WMP) for all outdoor cannabis cultivation sites that incorporate fencing into their project. The FEIR states:

"If fencing is required for outdoor cultivation sites, the applicant shall prepare a Wildlife Movement Plan for all cannabis cultivation sites proposed. The Wildlife Movement Plan shall analyze proposed fencing in relation to the surrounding opportunities for migration, identify the type, material, length, and design of proposed fencing, and shall propose nondisruptive, wildlife-friendly fencing, such as post and rail fencing, wire fencing, and/or high-tensile electric fencing, to allow passage by smaller animals and prevent movement in and out of cultivation sites by larger mammals, such as deer."

Orange Coast Farms is proposing to convert non-native annual grassland disturbed by historic and recent intensive farming and grazing activities into outdoor in-ground cannabis cultivation in hoop structures. The proposed project will include no-climb deer fencing for security. Based on three biological surveys conducted over the subject parcel and the proposed cultivations area in April 2019, and April and August 2020, and review of special-status species occurrence from the area, the Biological Resources Survey Report states:

Habitat Connectivity

The subject parcel is dominated by disturbed non-native habitats with historic and existing agricultural uses. No specific wildlife corridors have been mapped within the parcel, and the parcel does not provide known critical linkage between known important disjunct wildlife habitats. The subject parcel is surrounded by large parcels that are either undeveloped and dominated by non-native annual grasslands utilized for grazing, or intensively farmed (generally carrots in this area). Immediately northwest of the subject parcel, across Foothill Road, is the Cuyama Valley Solar Farm that was constructed in 2017. The solar farm perimeter chain-link fence was held approximately six (6) inches above the ground that created a gap that would allow small wildlife to continue to move through the general area.

The proposed cultivation project will not block wildlife movement through the subject parcel. The proposed cultivation project has incorporated measures into its design that will continue to be permeable for smaller wildlife movement through the subject parcel. This includes designing both the perimeter security fence and hoophouse structures to include a six (6)-inch gap at the bottom of each. This would allow smaller wildlife like American badger, San Joaquin kit fox, rabbits, reptiles, rodents, etc., to continue to move through the area, but prevent movement in and out of the cultivation areas by larger mammals, such as deer. In

addition, the proposed cultivation area has numerous interior dirt roads that too will provide corridors for wildlife movement. Due to the security fencing component of the proposed cultivation project, a Wildlife Movement Plan has been prepared and is attached to this report (refer to Appendix J, Wildlife Movement Plan).

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT PLAN

Evaluation of Wildlife Movement Opportunities

As discussed in the Biological Resources Survey Report, no known or specific wildlife corridors have been mapped within the parcel, and the subject parcel is not known to provide critical linkages between known important disjunct wildlife habitats. Within the subject parcel, existing general wildlife corridors and access routes consists of landscape features such as shallow swales, fence lines, and road edges. The subject parcel does not contain other landscape features that are commonly used by wildlife, such as, ridgelines, riparian habitats, or woodland edges.

Proposed Fence Materials and Hoophouse Structure Configuration

The proposed cultivation project includes a Fencing and Security Plan as part of the Project Plans (refer to Figure 1). The Project Description states: "*The cannabis operation would be fully enclosed by 8-foot tall no-climb deer fencing.*" As shown in the Fencing and Security Plan (refer to Figure 2), the proposed no-climb deer fence material will be installed six (6) inches above grade to create a continuous gap along the entire perimeter of the cultivation site in order to allow for wildlife movement by smaller sized animals through the project area. All vertical and horizontal pipes and/or poles associated with the proposed security fence will have capped ends to prevent entanglement and entrapment by wildlife. In addition, the security fencing will be inspected and maintained at least once annually to ensure wildlife movement under the fence is maintained and that all pole and/or pipe ends remained capped. Any issues that could impact wildlife movement and/or cause entanglement/entrapment of wildlife that are observed during future annual inspections shall be corrected immediately.

Figure 1. Fencing and Security Plan Notes.

FENCING & SECURITY NOTES:

- SECURITY GATES TO BE LOCKED AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT FOR ACTIVE INGRESS AND EGRESS.
- SECONDARY SECURITY GATES WILL BE PADLOCKED AND CAN ONLY BE UNLOCKED BY AUTHORIZED STAFF.
- THE PRIMARY SECURITY GATE WILL BE ACCESSED BY KEYCARD TECHNOLOGY.
- THERE WILL BE ROUGHLY 31 SECURITY CAMERAS THROUGH PUT THE PROPERTY.
- 4' WIDE MAINTENANCE GATES SHALL BE PLACED ADJACENT (7 TOTAL) LIGHT POLE/CAMERA LOCATIONS
- PROPOSED DEER FENCING SHALL BE 6" ABOVE GRADE TO ALLOW FOR WILDLIFE MOVEMENT. REFER TO DETAIL B ON SHEET 1.12. FOR MORE INFO REFER TO WILDLIFE MOVEMENT PLAN ON SHEET 1.14.
- REFER TO SHEET 1.12 FOR FENCING & SECURITY DETAILS.
- 8. PROJECT FENCING SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH MATERIALS THAT ARE NOT HARMFUL TO WILDLIFE INCLUDING, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO SPIKES, GLASS, RAZOR, OR BARBED WIRE. ALL HALLOW FENCE POSTS SHOULD BE CAPPED TO PREVENT BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE FROM ENTERING AND BECOMING ENTRAPPED. OPEN BOLT HOLES ON METAL FENCE POSTS CAN ENTRAP RAPTORS PERCHING UPON THE TOP OF THE POST. THESE HOLES SHOULD BE SEALED NEAR TOP TO PREVENT RAPTOR MORTALITY.



Figure 2. Fencing detail.

In addition, hoophouse structures for this proposed project have also been designed to allow for wildlife movement by smaller animals by holding the poly-film of each hoophouse six (6) inches above grade (refer to Figure 3).



Figure 3. Hoophouse Detail.

Adequacy of Design for Wildlife Passage

The proposed fence materials and installation configuration of the both the fence and hoophouse structures held six (6) inches above grade and the interior dirt roads are considered biologically adequate and appropriate, based on the undeveloped adjacent areas, and observed habitats and conditions. Cypher et. al (2012) states that, *"Fences with openings at least 4 inches wide and 6 inches tall or with a gap of at least 4 inches at the bottom will allow kit foxes to pass through."* The proposed no-climb deer fence material extending to six (6) inches above grade creates a suitable sized gap, maintains permeability of the site, and restricts access by larger wildlife species such as deer, while allowing smaller mammals (e.g. kit fox, badger, rodents, etc.), and reptiles to travel under the fence.

Conclusion

Use of the subject parcel and proposed cultivation area by wildlife is likely limited due to the absence of native habitats, historic intensive farming, livestock grazing, and observed disturbed conditions. The subject parcel likely provides habitat for resident small rodents, reptiles, and rabbit-sized wildlife, but likely only transient habitat for other larger common and special-status species. However, the project was designed to account for both resident and transient wildlife with the design of the perimeter security fence and hoophouse structures held six (6) inches above grade and the interior dirt roads. The design and incorporation of these should continue to allow movement of wildlife through the subject parcel. This analysis of adequacy of design, coupled with the pre-construction survey measures included in the Habitat Protection Plan, will mitigate wildlife movement impacts to a less than significant (Class II) level.

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service standardized recommendations for protection of the San Joaquin kit fox prior to or during ground disturbance. <u>http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/protocols_guidelines/docs/sjkf/</u> <u>sanjoaquinkitfox_protection.pdf</u>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2012. San Joaquin kit fox – species profile. http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?spcode=A006 Stephen Peterson, Senior Planner County of Santa Barbara, Planning & Development, Cannabis Program 624 W. Foster Road Santa Maria, CA 93455



August 25, 2020

Subject: Supplemental Biological Resources Information and Response to Comments for the Orange Coast Farms Cannabis Cultivation Project (Case No. 19LUP-327), 2225 Foothill Road, New Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California

The following memo provides supplemental information and responses to address comments from the review of the Biological Resources Survey Report by the Santa Barbara County peerreview biologist, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Comments from each entity are provided below along with a response from the project biologist.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PEER-REVIEW (SBCO) COMMENTS AND PROJECT BIOLOGIST RESPONSES

SBCO #2 - Special-Status Plant Species:

Reviewer comments: The biologists conducted two April surveys a year apart, and spent a total of 6 hours surveying 46.3 acres, or approximately 1 acre every 8 minutes for plants, wildlife, and vegetation; if they split up, they surveyed 1 acre every 16 minutes. Regardless of the details, insufficient time was spent covering the survey area and looking for special-status annuals tucked in among grasses and forbs. The observed plant species list is brief.

Appendix A lists Hoover's eriastrum (Eriastrum hooveri) as not present, but neglects to discuss the onsite observation of this diminutive annual near Foothill Road in a "sandy weedy field" in 1965; the BIOS polygon for this observation overlaps the northern end of the Site north of the Project Area.

Of the species listed with "presence unlikely," San Joaquin Bluecurls (Trichostema ovatum) has been reported 1.3 miles west of the Site at the same elevation along Foothill Road. This species occurs at lower elevations than implied in Appendix A and is not readily visible during April surveys; rather, summer/early fall surveys are required to observe this species, which often occurs in non-native grassland habitat or in disturbed openings. However, it has a California Rare Plant Rank of 4.2 for plants with limited distributions; this is a watch list category and does not represent a very rare plant species.

In general, this Report is thorough and provides good summary information on potential biological resources. The evaluation of the potential for special-status plant species to occur onsite is cursory, however, and only April surveys were conducted while mapping vegetation and conducting wildlife surveys simultaneously over a limited time period.

Required actions: Revise the Bio Report and Appendix A regarding Hoover's Eriastrum and San Joaquin Bluecurls as noted above. No further onsite survey is required, unless recommended by USFWS or CDFW. A more thorough botanical survey during summer would ensure that the Project Area has been adequately assessed for special-status plant species. Sufficient time should be scheduled and documented to thoroughly canvas the Site in spring and summer, along with a comprehensive observed plant species list. However, this is not required, since we agree that special-status plant species are unlikely to occur within the Project Area.

Response to SBCO #2 - Special-Status Plant Species: To address special-status plant species that have blooming periods in summer/fall and outside of the surveys conducted in April of 2019 and 2020, EAM biologists conducted a focused survey of the Project Area on August 18 and 21, 2020. During these two August 2020 site visits large areas of the parcel were observed to be heavily grazed by sheep with basically no vegetation present over large areas of the project site. Other areas of the parcel were fenced and appears that grazing has not occurred in these areas to date. During these two site visits San Joaquin bluecurls (*Trichostema ovatum*) were observed throughout the parcel. In addition, San Joaquin bluecurls were observed growing within the County-maintained road shoulder and also observed on the adjacent parcels as seen from Foothill Road and from the Project Site. In addition, CalFlora identifies new occurrences of this species from August 4, 2020, located in an area approximately 1.7 miles to 6.2 miles southeast of the Project Area (https://www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html?track=m#srch=t&cols=0,3,61,35,37,13,54,32,41&lpcli=t&taxon=Trichostema+ovatum&chk=t&cch=t&inat=r&cc=SBA).

As indicated by the County's peer-review biologist, San Joaquin bluecurls is a watch list (CNPS Rare Plant Rank 4.2) species and does not meet the CEQA thresholds used to define rarity (please refer to Section 15380 of CEQA). Due to this, project-related impacts to this species is not considered significant and will not require any mitigation for impacts under CEQA.

The occurrence of Hoover's eriastrum *(Eriastrum hooveri)* adjacent to the parcel is from 1986 and appears to be associated the shoulder of Foothill Road. Changes in land use (e.g., carrot farming and sheep grazing) within the parcel since 1986 has likely removed this species from the Project Site, if it was present previously. During the focused botanical surveys this species was not observed within the Project Site or along the shoulder of Foothill Road.

SBCO #3 - Special-Status Wildlife Species:

Reviewer comments: Appendix B and the Report narrative neglect to mention details of reported nearby special-status wildlife species observations. For instance, the Federally Threatened Kern primrose sphinx moth (Euproserpinus euterpe) has been reported less than one mile west of the Site in 2005, which conflicts with presented information; this sphinx moth also occurs in association with Camissonia campestris (not just C. contorta epilobioides), which has been reported in the Cuyama Valley (CNDDB and CalFlora); this sphinx moth has also been reported to the northwest of the Site. Short-eared owl (Asio flammeus) has been

reported less than one mile west of the Site in 2017, where it was reported by CNDDB to "nest in fallow agricultural field with dense weeds & grass 2-3 feet tall. Surrounded by active & fallow agriculture." This information conflicts with the presentation in Appendix B of nesting habitat for the short-eared owl.

Required actions: Appendix B and the Report narrative do not provide adequate information on nearby observations of special-status wildlife species, which in turn allows for a more comprehensive analysis for their potential to occur on Site. Appendix B and the Report narrative should be updated with information on nearby CNDDB occurrences, proximity to the Site, and the habitat in which these occurrences were reported.

Because the Federally Threatened Kern primrose sphinx moth has been reported within one mile of the Site in the last 20 years, the applicant should provide correspondence from the USFWS and CDFW, as applicable, for Federal and California-listed species with the potential to occur at the Site. Correspondence should include one of the following: 1) concur that no take will occur and the project may proceed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act, or 2) additional focused species surveys are required, and/or 3) an incidental take permit (ITP) is required.

In addition, documentation and reporting of any additional surveys and biological monitoring during construction should be provided to the County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development and any agencies that request such documentation. In addition, there is no information on steps the applicant should take if individuals of San Joaquin kit fox or other special-status species are observed on Site (including documentation, impact avoidance measures, as well as any agency contacts). Please provide the County with guidance for the applicant to follow if a sensitive species enters the Site.

Response to SBCO #3 - Special-Status Wildlife Species: The California Natural Diversity Database identifies Kern primrose sphinx moth occurrences within the Cuyama and Carrizo Plains areas as "Sensitive" and does not provide a specific location of their occurrences. Due to this, the potential for Kern primrose sphinx moth to be present onsite is based on habitats observed onsite, habitat preferences of this species, and current scientific literature.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (2007) "Kern primrose sphinx moth (Euproserpinus euterpe) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation" provides information concerning the species and its recent documented occurrences in Carrizo Plain and the Cuyama Valley. In the 5 Year Review it states "Jump et al. (2006) further describe essential habitat elements at both the Carrizo Plain and the Cuyama Valley that include: sandy washes with open soil for morning basking, young alluvial sandy soils that support the food plant Camissonia campestris (field primrose or sun cup) and with soil that is loose enough to allow larvae to burrow and construct shallow pupal chambers, and sufficiently dense stands of C. campestris that allow Kern primrose sphinx moth larvae to travel from stand to stand as they consume their host plants." Essential habitat elements identified by Jump et al (2006) as sandy washes with open soil are not present on or adjacent to the Project Area. In addition, *Camissonia campestris* was not observed during the April 2019 and 2020 focused botanical surveys.

The 5 Year Review provides additional detail of their distribution as, "In the Cuyama Valley suitable habitat occurs in the principal drainage systems running west into the Cuyama River near Ventucopa and along the drainages running north to the Cuyama River near New Cuyama (A. Kuritsubo in litt. 2006)." The Project Site at 2225 Foothill Road is not located within or immediately adjacent to any principal drainage systems running north into the Cuyama River. Examples of principal drainage systems in the general area would likely be Santa Barbara Canyon, Salisbury Canyon, and Castro Canyon.

In addition, the 5 Year Review further states that "adverse land practices in the Cuyama Valley, such as agricultural disking, modification of washes, ORV use, road maintenance, and sheep bedding negatively impact both populations of Kern primrose sphinx moth and suitable habitat." The Project Site has a history of carrot farming and sheep grazing was observed within the Project Site during all site visits.

Recent biological assessments conducted in close proximity to the project area include the Cuyama Solar Array (URS 2010 and Althouse and Meade 2012) located approximately 800 feet to the northwest and the SEPV Cuyama Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Facility Project (Althouse and Meade 2018) approximately 2,000 feet to the north. Both of the biological assessments prepared for these projects determined that no suitable habitat for the Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth was located on the respective project sites and development of the projects would have no adverse effect on this species.

Based on the recent scientific literature and the USFWS' "5 Year Review and Summary" reviewed for this species, the absences of identified essential habitat requirements, other recent nearby biological assessments, and the historic and observed land uses within the Project Site, this species is likely not present and impacts to this species is not expected to occur. No additional surveys or monitoring should be required for this species.

Short-eared owl have been identified in the general area of the Project Site, but the site overall does not contain "dense weeds & grass 2-3 feet tall," the suitable habitat for this species as specified within the Santa Barbara peer-review comment #3. Russian thistle (e.g. tumbleweeds, *Salsola* spp.) have collected along the southern fence line, but the overall Project Site is dominated by low growing annual grasses and forbs. To address potential impacts to ground nesting birds, and nesting birds in general, avoidance and protection measures were previously added to the Habitat Protection Plan (HPP) that requires nesting bird surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities that would occur during the February 1 to September 15 nesting season. These avoidance and protection measures for nesting birds are consistent with other adjacent projects and provide more than adequate protection. Implementation of these measures will reduce potential impacts to nesting birds to a less than significant level.

SBCO #4 - Wildlife Movement:

Reviewer comments: The Cuyama Valley links the San Joaquin Valley with surrounding mountain ranges with coastal valleys, foothills, and mountains, and the Site sits at the base of the Sierra Madre Mountains, an east-west Transverse Range with linkages to other mountain ranges in the region. The Report downplays the importance of agricultural fields and non-native grassland for wildlife movement, particularly next to a major wildlife corridor to the immediate south (Sierra Madre Mountains) and less than 1.5 mile to the north, the Cuyama River. The report does not address the effects of the change of habitat from non-native grassland to hoop houses, which will prevent foraging by raptors and use by fossorial species on a permanent basis.

The Wildlife Management Plan provides effective mitigation measures for movement of wildlife under fences and hoophouses, these are very good design elements.

Required actions: While addressing the requested changes for special-status wildlife species mentioned above in Section 3, please include a brief discussion of the loss of foraging habitat used by raptors and other fossorial species

Response to SBCO #4 - Wildlife Movement: The proposed project will result in the loss of foraging habitat for raptors and other terrestrial species of wildlife. However, currently the habitat values provided by the Project Site are low due to historic agriculture and current intense sheep grazing observed onsite. The loss of the project area as foraging habitat for special-status wildlife species is considered insignificant due to the likely current absence of special-status wildlife species on the Project Site and the large undeveloped parcels that surround the Project Site that will continue to provide foraging habitat. The proposed project has incorporated mitigation measures to ensure movement of wildlife through the Project Site is maintained and to ensure impacts to wildlife movement from the proposed project is less than significant.

USFWS COMMENTS AND PROJECT BIOLOGIST RESPONSES

USFWS #1. Based on the biological resource report for the project, the 46.3-acre project area is suitable habitat for the federally protected San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). The project area is comprised of annual grassland, provides a prey base of small mammals, and is situated on soil types and gentle slopes that can support San Joaquin kit fox. It is possible that kit fox use the project area for denning, foraging and dispersal. If San Joaquin kit fox use the property, the project may cause adverse effects to the kit fox during construction or operation. We recommend the project proponent conduct focused surveys to determine the likelihood of kit fox presence in the project area and to better inform the assessment of project impacts to kit fox. The Service can provide guidance on surveying for San Joaquin kit fox.

Response to USFWS #1: There are five occurrences for San Joaquin kit fox listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) from a 5-mile radius around the Project

Site, but all are from the timeframe of 1971 to 1979 (49 to 41 years ago). Focused visual surveys in April 2019 and 2020 did not observe any potential dens or diagnostic kit fox sign (e.g. kit fox tracks, scat, or prey remains). However, the presence of suitable habitat (e.g. annual grasslands) on the Project Site and in the general area could provide foraging and/or transient habitat for kit fox and potential impacts to kit fox during project implementation. Avoidance and protection measures were recommended in the HPP to ensure impacts to kit fox did not occur during construction.

Following review of the CDFW and the USFWS' comments from their review of the biological resources survey report and the assessment of kit fox within the Project Site, project biologists conducted an additional kit fox assessment that consisted of 4.5-person hours of visual transect surveys of the Project Site on August 18, 2020. Due to the very sparse vegetation over the Project Site, the visual transects achieved 100% visual coverage. No potential dens that could be utilized by kit fox were observed within the Project Site during the visual transect surveys. Active ground squirrel burrows were observed within the area of the fruit tree orchard (northwest corner) and outside of the Project Site. The ground squirrel burrows were actively being used by ground squirrels as the surveyors witnessed ground squirrels escaping into the burrows during the survey effort.

In addition, recent biological assessments conducted adjacent to the Project Site include the Cuyama Solar Array (URS 2010 and Althouse and Meade 2012) and the SEPV Cuyama Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Facility Project (Althouse and Meade 2018). All three of the biological assessments prepared for these two projects did not observe kit fox or diagnostic sign, and determined that their respective project areas had low potential for kit fox, however the assessments identified kit fox could occur as a transient in the general area during project implementation.

The recommended avoidance and protection measures for San Joaquin kit fox provided in the HPP prepared for the Project Site closely follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (2011) "Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance." These measures are consistent with other adjacent projects and provide more than adequate protection to avoid take of kit fox and implementation of these measures will reduce potential impacts to kit fox to a less than significant level.

USFWS #2: Kern primrose sphinx moths (*Euproserpinus euterpe*) are present in the Cuyama Valley, and are dependent on *Camissonia* species as their host plant. Their habitat typically consists of sandy washes with open soil for morning basking with sufficiently dense stands of the food plant Camissonia campestris to support the moth larvae. According to the biological resources report, the project area does not represent typical Kern primrose sphinx moth habitat, and no Camissonia species were observed during the two surveys conducted during the blooming period of the plant.

Based on this information, it is unlikely that the moth is present on the property. However, as noted in the peer review comments of the report, provided by the County of Santa Barbara (Peterson 2020), the time biologists spent surveying the project area was insufficient to thoroughly survey for annual plants that may occur between grasses and forbs. We therefore cannot entirely rule out the possibility that Kern primrose sphinx moth or its habitat are present in the project area.

Response to USFWS #2: Please refer to the response provided in SBCO #3 - Special-Status Wildlife Species on page 2 that addresses Kern primrose sphinx moth.

CDFW COMMENTS AND PROJECT BIOLOGIST RESPONSES

CDFW #1. According to the Biological Resources Survey Report, no permanent or perennial water features (e.g., creeks, streams, rivers, and reservoirs) are located on or adjacent to the subject parcel. On July 9, 2020, CDFW conducted a site visit to evaluate mapping of biological features on site. Based on our site visit and review of site plans, CDFW concurs with the mapping of stream resources at the Project site.

Response to CDFW #1: No response is required.

CDFW #2. Page 1 of the Biological Resources Survey Report states that the proposed project area is 46.3-acre while page 2 of the Report indicates that the proposed project area is 36.62 acres. Please clarify which acreage is correct in the Biological Resources Survey Report and supporting documentation.

Response to CDFW #2: The proposed project is the development of a 46.3-acre project area, which will consist of a 36.62-acre cultivation area on the 78.3-acre parcel located at 2225 Foothill Road, (APN 149-160-033), in the Cuyama area of northern Santa Barbara County, California. Other components of the project, comprising 9.7 acres, include operational areas containing roads, a parking and loading area, a 160 square foot (sf) security office, 168 sf restroom, and a 160 sf storage container.

CDFW #3. The Biological Resources Survey Report (Appendix B) concludes that there is suitable foraging habitat for several special status species, including San Joaquin Kit Fox (*Vulpes macrotis*); ESA (Federal Endangered Species Act; 16 U.S.C. ch. 35 § 1531 et seq) – and CESA-listed), and American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*), a State Species of Special Concern (SSC). SSC is a State designation intended to focus attention on animals at conservation risk by the CDFW, other State, local and Federal governmental entities (see https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/SSC). The Biological Resources Survey Report also concludes there is suitable habitat for other SCC including, Western Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Coast Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), California Glossy Snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), Coast Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), and San Joaquin Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum ruddocki*). The Biological Resources Survey should fully address all listed and sensitive species and their supporting habitat,

including conducting additional habitat assessment and focused surveys if needed to evaluate presence or absence. This is recommended to provide an accurate analysis and disclosure of potential impacts from Project activities.

CDFW also recommends that habitat protection plans, wildlife movement plans, and vegetation/tree mitigation plans for the Project address project-level impacts and specific mitigation needs to the above special status species.

a) If the Project could result in take of a species designated as endangered, threatened or candidate under the CESA or NPPA, CDFW recommends the applicant/proponent seek appropriate take authorization prior to implementing the Project or risk being in violation of the Fish and Game Code. If impacts to federal listed species may occur, CDFW recommends that the Project initiate consultation with the United State Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

b) Species designated under Fish and Game code as Fully Protected may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take (Fish & G. Code §§ 3511, 4700, 5050 and 5515). The biological analysis and County authorizations should demonstrate that no impacts to Fully Protected species would occur from Project activities. The biological analysis and County authorizations should demonstrate that no impacts to Fully Protected species would occur from Project activities to Fully Protected species would occur from Project activities.

Response to CDFW #3: The project response to San Joaquin kit fox is provided in Response to USFWS #1 on page 5 of this document.

The focused surveys and associated transects conducted on the Project Site in April 2019 and 2020, and on August 18 and 21, 2020, did not directly detect or observe diagnostic sign for the following species: American badger, western burrowing owl, California glossy snake, horned lark, coast horned lizard, or San Joaquin Coachwhip.

Due to the use of burrows by American badger and western burrowing owl, their presence would have been identifiable during the visual transect surveys conducted over the Project Site during the four focused surveys conducted in April 2019, and April and August 2020. Due to the negative survey results, but presence of suitable foraging and transient habitat, specific protection and avoidance measures for American badger and western burrowing owl were recommended within the HPP prepared for this Project Site, which include pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, and implementation of exclusion/buffer zones, if the species enters the Project Site immediately prior to or during construction.

The biological resources survey report identifies potential impacts to special status reptiles, such as coast horned lizard, San Joaquin coachwhip, and/or California glossy snake from ground or vegetation disturbing activities. Determining presence of coast horned lizard, San Joaquin coachwhip, and/or California glossy snake within a project

site is very difficult and no survey protocols have been developed to detect these special-status reptile species. To address potential impacts to special status reptile species from project implementation, and consistent with other adjacent projects, avoidance and protection measures have been proposed within the HPP prepared for this project. The measures include preconstruction surveys and construction monitoring.

Ground nesting birds like California horned lark, and nesting birds in general, have a potential to use the Project Site for nesting habitat during the nesting season (e.g. February 1 to September 15). To address potential impacts to nesting birds, and consistent with other adjacent projects, preconstruction surveys and buffer zones were recommended in the HPP for any ground disturbances or vegetation removal that occurs from February 1 to September 15.

In addition, the biological assessments prepared for the adjacent Cuyama Solar Array Project (URS 2010 and Althouse and Meade 2012) and the SEPV Cuyama Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Facility Project (Althouse and Meade 2018) identified many of the same special-status species, but did not detect or observed diagnostic sign for these special-status species listed above. However, due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat and the potential for these special-status species to enter or pass through the two project sites prior to or during construction activities, avoidance and protection measures were recommended in the respective biological assessments to reduce potential impacts.

The avoidance and protection measures recommended in the HPP for this proposed project are biologically appropriate and consistent with recent biological assessments, including the biological assessments prepared for the adjacent Cuyama Solar Array Project (URS 2010 and Althouse and Meade 2012) and the SEPV Cuyama Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Facility Project (Althouse and Meade 2018).

In addition, page 15 of the biological assessment states that "No species designated as "Fully Protected" under the Fish and Game Code have the potential to occur within the Survey area." In addition, no species designated as fully protected were observed during the numerous site visits to the Project Site.

CDFW #4. According to comments from the County (peer-review biologist), the ESAlisted Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth (*Euproserpinus Euterpe*) has been reported within one mile of the Project site in the last 20 years. CDFW recommends that a pre-construction survey be conducted for the federally-threatened Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth before initial ground disturbance if suitable habitat on-site will be impacted by the Project. If this species is observed on site, the Project should seek appropriate federal take authorization for this species from FWS. Suitable habitat for this species includes sandy washes and alluvial soils. Adult Kern Primrose Sphinx Moths typically utilize nectar from Filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), Goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysostoma*), Menzies' Baby BlueEyes (Nemophila menziesii) and Miniature Lupine (Lupinus bicolor). Larval sphinx moths have been observed to feed on Evening Primrose (Camissonia contorta epilobiodes), which is also an obligate host plant (FWS, 2017).

Response to CDFW #4: Please refer to the response provided in Response to SBCO #3 - Special-Status Wildlife Species on page 2 that addresses Kern primrose sphinx moth.

CDFW #5: According to the Biological Resources Survey Report (page 11), the survey for special status plant species occurred outside the blooming period for the following eight (8) annual plants that have potential to occur on site: oval-leaved snapdragon (*Antirrhinum ovatum*), Blakley's spineflower (*Chorizanthe blakleyi*), straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*), Mt. Pinos larkspur (*Delphinium parryi ssp. purpureum*), temblor buckwheat (*Eriogonum temblorense*) pine gilia (*Gilia leptantha ssp. pinetorum*), Fort Tejon woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum lanatum var. hallii*), and San Joaquin bluecurls (*Trichostema ovatum*). CDFW recommends that an updated focused survey for these plants be included in the environmental documentation supporting the LUP for the Project

Response to CDFW #5: Refer to Santa Barbara County-peer review comment #2 for the results of the additional summer botanical surveys conducted in August 2020.

To summarize, additional focused surveys for summer/fall blooming species were conducted on August 18 and 21, 2020. During those surveys San Joaquin bluecurls were observed scattered throughout the Project Site, on adjacent parcels, and along the shoulder of Foothill Road. Other than the observation of San Joaquin bluecurls, none of the other special-status plant species were identified during these focused surveys. San Joaquin bluecurls are a watch list (CNPS Rare Plant Rank 4.2) species and does not meet the CEQA thresholds used to define rarity (please refer to Section 15380 of CEQA). Due to this, project-related impacts to this species is not considered significant and will not require any mitigation for impacts under CEQA.

CDFW #6: CDFW recommends that any on-site fencing be designed as wildlife friendly and be properly maintained. For example, all poles shall be capped to prevent raptor entanglement and therefore shall be adequate break intervals within the fence line to ensure wildlife movement is not impaired. Broken wires can impale or harm raptors causing infection and death.

Response to CDFW #6: The Wildlife Movement Plan (WMP) states: "As shown in the Fencing and Security Plan (refer to Figure 2), the proposed chain-link fence material be installed six (6) inches above grade to create continuous gap along the entire perimeter of the cultivation site in order to allow for wildlife movement by smaller sized animals through the project area." This measure is adequate to address wildlife movement impacts addressed by the Programmatic EIR. Additional details will be added to the Project Description and WMP that addresses annual maintenance of the

fencing and that all poles/pipes shall have capped ends to prevent entanglement and/or entrapment by wildlife.

CDFW #7: The Project should clearly identify how and where rodenticides, herbicides and other chemicals will be stored. Primary and secondary containment measures to prevent supplements, nutrient, and chemicals from entering on-site or adjacent streams should be identified and described. The State Water Resources Control Board may already have principles and guidelines in their Cannabis Cultivation Policy to address this area that could meet this need.

Response to CDFW #7: The site plans provided in the biological resources survey report (refer to Appendix F) identifies the location of the proposed storage location and also provides a detail of the specific storage container that will be used. In addition, the biological report states: "Only organic California Department of Food and Agricultureapproved fertilizers, nutrients/supplements, and pest control measures will be utilized by the project. To address agricultural pollutants, the project will comply with MM HWR-1a., SWRCB Cannabis Waste Discharge Requirements Draft General Order, by providing evidence of compliance with the SWRCB's requirements to the Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department as a part of the applicable permitting process, before receiving a license from the County."

To comply with the State Water Board General Cannabis Order, a Site Management Plan has been prepared for this project that describes how the proposed cannabis cultivation project will implement the best practical treatment or control (BPTC) measures listed in Attachment A of the Cannabis General Order. Section 2 (Fertilizer, Pesticide, Herbicide, and Rodenticide BPTC Measures) of the Site Management Plan provides specific information on what products will be used, where they will be stored, and provides a spill prevention and cleanup plan. The Site Management Plan prepared for this project states that no herbicides or rodenticides will be used.

CDFW #8: Based upon a recent search of our records and Environmental Permitting Information Management System (EPIMS) database, an LSA Application for APN 149-160-033 and address 2225 Foothill Road has not been submitted to CDFW. Based on our site visit and review of information provided, including the Biological Resources Survey Report, CDFW concurs that all on-site stream features have been adequately mapped and avoided.

Response to CDFW #8: No response required.

CDFW #9: Based on current design and information received to date, due to the Project's location and potential impacts to sensitive species observed or known to occur on the site or in the area, we recommend that the information identified above be included in the County's environmental/permit documentation for the Project.

a. A Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report would be appropriate in cases where there would be impacts to CESA-listed species.

Response to CDFW #9: CESA-listed species were not observed during the survey efforts and Impacts to CESA-listed species are not anticipated to occur from the proposed project. The Project has been designed to incorporate all applicable mitigation measures contained in the County's programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) for the Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and Licensing Program. With implementation of the HPP and WMP included in the biological resources report, no potentially significant biological impacts outside of the scope of the PEIR would result from the proposed Project. Therefore, pursuant to the requirements set forth in State CEQA Guidelines §§ 15162 and 15168, no subsequent environmental documentation related to biological resources is required for this Project.

REFERENCES:

- Althouse and Meade, Inc., Biological Report for Cuyama Solar Array Project, Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California. Prepared for Cuyama Solar, LLC. 2012.
- Althouse and Meade, Inc., Biological Report for SEPV Cuyama Solar Project, 17CUP-00004, Santa Barbara County, California. Prepared for SEPV Cuyama, LLC. 2018.
- JBD Environmental Consulting, LLC. Site Management Plan. Orange Coast Farms (WDID: 3_42CC427194). July 2020.
- URS Corporation. Biological Resources Assessment for the Cuyama Solar Array, Cuyama, Santa Barbara County, California. Prepared for Cuyama Solar, LLC. 2010.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Kern primrose sphinx moth (*Euproserpinus euterpe*) 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Field Office Sacramento, California. 2007
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox prior to or during Ground Disturbance. Prepared by the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office. January 2011.

EAM is available to discuss the comments and information provided above. If you have any comments or questions regarding this document, please contact me at (805) 440-6137 or dwayne@ecologicalmgmt.com.

Sincerely,

Iwayne Obehoff

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