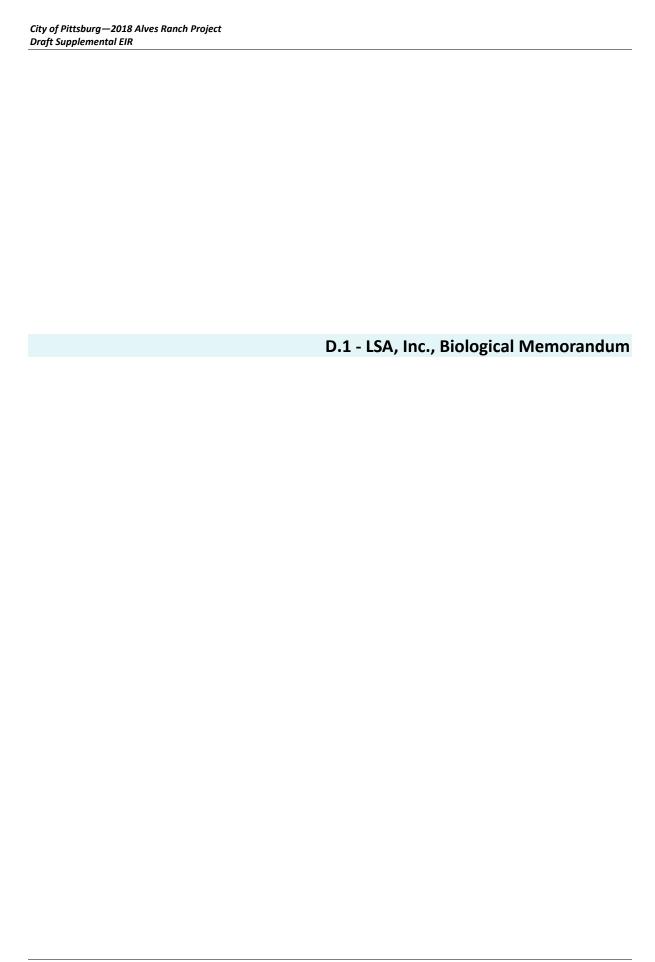


Appendix D: Biological Resources Supporting Information









CARLSBAD
FRESNO
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

June 27, 2018

To:

Mandy Leung and Scott Hilk

FROM:

Ross A. Dobberteen, Ph.D.

SUBJECT:

Review of Current Biological Conditions in the Alves Ranch Project Area with

Respect to 2004 DEIR Mitigation Measures, Vista Del Mar in Pittsburg, Contra Costa

County, California

Per your request, LSA, Inc. (LSA) presents this memo regarding our review of current site conditions at the Alves Ranch Project Site south of West Leland Road near the Vista Del Mar residential development in Pittsburg, California. The purpose of our assessment was to determine if any new potential biological features were present on the site that were not originally addressed in the 2004 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and associated mitigation measures. This memo is based on our on-going discussions about the proposed Alves Ranch Project, as well as LSA's prior work on the property on a continuous basis since 2002.

Methods:

Prior to conducting the site visit, all of the project files were reviewed related to the Vista Del Mar development project, which included lands south of West Leland Road where the proposed Alves Ranch Project will be built. Specifically, permits were obtained to grade the Alves Ranch Project area and construct a water quality detention basin in 2004-2005. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was also reviewed for records of any special-status species occurrences in the project vicinity since LSA's original biological assessment in 2002. Finally, aerial imagery from Google Earth was examined to look for any signs of ponding on the site since the project area was graded.

On June 12, 2018, I conducted a site visit that involved walking transects (approximately 100 feet apart) across the level portion of the project area to search for any new biological resources, such as wetlands or habitats for special-status species. I also walked down to the bottom of the water quality detention basin via maintenance roads to inspect the conditions and outfall structures.

Results:

Presented below is a summary of my observations during the site visit:

- Other than the constructed water quality detention basin adjacent to Highway 4, a majority of the site was level as a result of the grading activities in 2004-2005.
- The property has been maintained since the grading activities in 2004-2005. The level portions of the site had been recently disced and appeared to have been planted with wild oats, which is the dominate vegetation type on most of the site. There are a few coyote brush shrubs scattered throughout the site.
- The level portions of the site had several constructed drainage ditches that went to drop inlets as part of the water quality detention basin system that was constructed in 2004-2005; the ditches were dry and were dominated by upland vegetation.
- Based on the Corps of Engineers approved wetland delineation from 2001, the Alves Ranch Project area had a single ephemeral drainage approximately 200 feet long in the center of the site. The feature, which was filled in 2004-2005, was not observed during the course of the 2018 site visit. All of the permit conditions associated with the authorization to fill the ephemeral drainage have been satisfied.
- The bottom of the water quality detention basin is dominated by cattails (*Typha* sp.) and non-native common reed (*Phragmites australis*). At the time of the site visit, the bottom of the basin was dry and no standing water was observed.
- The water quality detention basin has been maintained since it was constructed in 2004-2005, consisting of periodic vegetation control and debris removal from the trash racks. As recently as 2012, additional modifications were made to the water control structures and the basin was also re-graded.

Conclusions:

In summary, no new biological resources are present on the proposed Alves Ranch Project site based on my site visit, and nothing about the proposed Project would trigger any new significant impacts or increase the severity of significant impacts previously identified in the 2004 EIR. Therefore, the applicable biological resource mitigation measures in the DEIR, including, without limitation, a pre-construction survey to search for active native bird nests, should be imposed on the construction of the proposed Alves Ranch Project, which would ensure that all identified biological resource impacts are adequately mitigated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions and/or require further information regarding this assessment.





Table 1: Special-status Plant Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

Scientific Name	Status					Included in Impact	
Common Name	USFWS ¹	CDFW ²	CNPS ³	Habitat Description ⁴	Potential to Occur and Rationale	Analysis	
alkali milk-vetch Astragalus tener var. tener	_	_	1B.2	Alkali playa, valley and foothill grassland. Low ground, alkali flats, and flooded lands; in annual grassland or in playas or vernal pools. 0–168 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of vernal pools and alkali soil on-site.	No	
Antioch Dunes evening-primrose Oenothera deltoides ssp. howellii	FE	SE	18.2	Interior dunes. Remnant river bluffs and sand dunes east of Antioch. 1–15 m.	Iffs and sand dunes Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of sand dunes on-site.		
big tarplant Blepharizonia plumosa	_	_	1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland. Dry hills & plains in annual grassland. Clay to clay-loam soils; usually on slopes and often in burned areas. 60–505 m.	s; usually on extremely high level of disturbance at site		
Bolander's water-hemlock Cicuta maculata var. bolanderi	_	_	2B.1	Marshes and swamps, fresh or brackish water. Central valley counties and parts of southern California. 0–200 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Water Quality Detention Center, which contains marginal habitat for this species, is actively maintained	No	
Contra Costa wallflower Erysimum capitatum var. angustatum	FE	SE	1B.1	Inland dunes. Stabilized dunes of sand and clay near Antioch along the San Joaquin River. 3–20 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of sand or clay dunes onsite.	No	
Delta mudwort <i>Limosella australis</i>	_	_	2B.1	Riparian scrub, marshes and swamps. Usually on mud banks of the Delta in marshy or scrubby riparian associations; often with <i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i> . 0–5 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Water Quality Detention Center, which contains marginal habitat for this species, is actively maintained	No	
Delta tule pea Lathyrus jepsonii var. jepsonii	_	_	1B.2	Marshes and swamps. In freshwater and brackish marshes. Often found with Typha, <i>Aster lentus, Rosa californica, Juncus</i> spp., <i>Scirpus</i> , etc. Usually on marsh and slough edges. 0–5 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence.	No	
Mason's lilaeopsis Lilaeopsis masonii	_	CR	1B.1	Marshes and swamps, riparian scrub. Tidal zones, in muddy or silty soil formed through river deposition or river bank erosion. In brackish or freshwater. 0–10 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Water Quality Detention Center, which contains marginal habitat for this species, is actively maintained	No	

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Table 1 (cont.): Special-status Plant Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

Scientific Name	Status					Included in Impact	
Common Name	USFWS ¹	CDFW ²	CNPS ³	Habitat Description ⁴	Potential to Occur and Rationale	Analysis	
soft salty bird's-beak Chloropyron molle ssp. molle	FE	CR	1B.2	Coastal salt marsh. In coastal salt marsh with Distichlis, Salicornia, Frankenia, etc. 0–5 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of coastal salt marsh onsite.	No	
Suisun Marsh aster Symphyotrichum lentum	_	_	1B.2	Marshes and swamps (brackish and freshwater). Most often seen along sloughs with Phragmites, Scirpus, blackberry, Typha, etc. 0–15 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Water Quality Detention Center, which contains marginal habitat for this species, is actively maintained	No	
Large-flowered fiddleneck Amsinckia grandiflora	_	_	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill, annual grassland in various soils. Grows in saturated soil but not required. 275–550 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of woodland on-site.	No	
Colusa Grass Neostapfia Colusana	FT	SE	18.1	Vernal pools. Usually in the bottoms of large, or deep vernal pools; adobe soils. 5–125 m.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of vernal pools on-site.	No	

Code Designations

CDFW Listing
ne CDFW.
_

Habitat description: Habitat description adapted from CNDDB (CDFW 2015a).

Table 2: Special-status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

Colombilio Nomo	Stat	us			Included in Immed	
Common Name	Scientific Name Common Name USFWS ¹ CDF		Habitat Description ³	Potential to Occur and Rationale	Included in Impact Analysis	
Reptiles						
giant gartersnake Thamnophis gigas	FT	ST	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
western pond turtle Emys marmorata	_	SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.		No	
Birds						
burrowing owl Athene cunicularia	МВТА	SSC	Found in open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. A subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably the California ground squirrel.	Low Potential to Occur: Suitable nesting habitat is present within the project site. No indicators of habitat or burrowing owl were found on-site during the field survey.	Yes	
California black rail Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	МВТА	ST FP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.	Yes	
California least tern Sternula antillarum browni	FE MBTA	SE FP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. A colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates, sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of flat substrates and sand beaches.	No	
California Ridgway's rail Rallus obsoletus obsoletus	FE	SE	Salt water and brackish marshes traversed by tidal sloughs in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. Associated with abundant growths of pickleweed, but feeds away from cover on invertebrates from mud-bottomed sloughs	Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.	Yes	
saltmarsh common yellowthroat Geothlypis trichas sinuosa	-	SSC	Resident of the San Francisco Bay region, in fresh and salt water marshes. Requires thick, continuous cover down to water surface for foraging; tall grasses, tule patches, willows for nesting.	Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.	Yes	

Table 2 (cont.): Special-status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

Calandifia Nama	Status					
Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS ¹	CDFW ²	Habitat Description ³	Potential to Occur and Rationale	Included in Impact Analysis	
short-eared owl Asio flammeus	_	SSC	Found in swamp lands, both fresh and salt; lowland meadows; irrigated alfalfa fields. Tule patches/tall grass needed for nesting/daytime seclusion. Nests on dry ground in depression concealed in vegetation. Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.		Yes	
Suisun song sparrow Melospiza melodia maxillaris	_	SSC	Resident of brackish-water marshes surrounding Suisun Bay. nhabits cattails, tules and other sedges, and Salicornia; also known o frequent tangles bordering sloughs. Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.		Yes	
Swainson's hawk Buteo swainsoni	МВТА	ST	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations. Potential to Occur: suitable foraging habitat is present within the Project.		Yes	
tricolored blackbird Agelaius tricolor	_	SSC	Forages in open habitats such as farm fields, pastures, cattle pens, large lawns. Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.		Yes	
yellow rail Coturnicops noveboracensis	_	SSC	Shallow marshes, and wet meadows; in winter, drier fresh-water and brackish marshes, as well as dense, deep grass, and rice fields.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Fish						
longfin smelt Spirinchus thaleichthys	FC	ST SSC	Longfin smelt spend their adult life in bays, estuaries, and nearshore coastal areas, and migrate into freshwater rivers to spawn. Spawning occurs primarily from January through March, after which most adults die.	Unlikely to Occur: no suitable habitat is present within the Project. Lack of rivers or streams on-site.	No	
steelhead—Central Valley DPS Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11	FT	_	Populations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries. Unlikely to Occur: no suitable habitat is present the Project. Lack of rivers or streams on-site.		No	

Table 2 (cont.): Special-status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

Scientific Name	Status					
Common Name	USFWS ¹	CDFW ²	Habitat Description ³	Potential to Occur and Rationale	Included in Impact Analysis	
Invertebrates						
Conservancy fairy shrimp Branchinecta conservatio	FE	_	Endemic to the grasslands of the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley; found in large, turbid pools. Inhabit astatic pools located in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by winter/spring rains, last until June.	Central Valley; found in large, turbid pools. Inhabit astatic pools ocated in swales formed by old, braided alluvium; filled by Standing water present on-site is low quality and		
vernal pool fairy shrimp Branchinecta lynchi	FT	_	mited to vernal pools in Oregon and California. Occasionally hese tiny crustaceans will be found in habitats other than vernal pools, such as artificial pools created by roadside ditches. Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. No presence of vernal pools on-site.		No	
vernal pool tadpole shrimp Lepidurus packardi	FE	_	unhabits vernal pools and swales in the Sacramento Valley ontaining clear to highly turbid water. Pools commonly found in grass-bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are nud-bottomed and highly turbid. Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. No presence of vernal pools on-site.		No	
Mammals						
salt-marsh harvest mouse Reithrodontomys raviventris	FE	SE	Only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. Pickleweed is primary habitat, but may occur in other marsh vegetation types and in adjacent upland areas. Does not burrow; builds loosely organized nests. Requires higher areas for flood escape.	occur in other high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of saline wetlands on-site.		
Amphibians						
California red-legged frog Rana draytonii	_	SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development	Low Potential to Occur: there is suitable foraging or nesting habitat within the project site but due to high level of disturbance at site and preferable habitat located in Suisun Bay and Honker Bay, it has low potential to occur on-site.	Yes	
California tiger salamander Ambystoma californiense	FT	ST	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	Unlikely to Occur: Lack of suitable nesting habitat and extremely high level of disturbance at site preclude presence. Lack of burrows on-site.	No	

FirstCarbon Solutions 5

Table 2 (cont.): Special-status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring within the Project

	Calantifia Nama	Stat	us				Included in locate				
	Scientific Name Common Name	USFWS ¹	CDFW ²	Habitat Description ³	Habitat Description ³		Potential to Occur and Rationale	Included in Impact Analysis			
Code	Designations										
	1 Federal Status: 2015 USFWS Listing					² State Status: 2015 CDFW Listing					
ESU	SU = Evolutionary Significant Unit is a distinctive population.					SE = Listed as endangered under the CESA.					
FE	= Listed as endangered u	nder the FESA.			ST = Listed as threatened under the CESA.						
FT	= Listed as threatened ur	= Listed as threatened under the FESA.				SSC = Species of Special Concern as identified by the CDFW.					
FC	= Candidate for listing (th	nreatened or en	ndangered) u	nder FESA.	FP = Listed as fully protected under FGC.						
FD	= Delisted in accordance with the FESA.				CFG = FGC =protected by FGC 3503.5						
FPD	= Federally Proposed to I	= Federally Proposed to be Delisted.					CR = Rare in California.				
MBTA	TA = protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act					— = Not state listed					
-	— = Not federally listed										
³ Habitat description: Habitat description adapted from CNDDB (CDFW 2015a).											







Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad IS (Honker Bay (3812118))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
alkali milk-vetch	PDFAB0F8R1	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.2
Astragalus tener var. tener	1 DI ABOI OKT	None	TTOTIC	0212	O.E	10.2
Antioch Dunes evening-primrose	PDONA0C0B4	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S1	1B.1
Oenothera deltoides ssp. howellii	. 20	aage.ea				
big tarplant	PDAST1C011	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	1B.1
Blepharizonia plumosa						
Bolander's water-hemlock	PDAPI0M051	None	None	G5T4	S2	2B.1
Cicuta maculata var. bolanderi						
burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Athene cunicularia						
California black rail	ABNME03041	None	Threatened	G3G4T1	S1	FP
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus						
California least tern	ABNNM08103	Endangered	Endangered	G4T2T3Q	S2	FP
Sternula antillarum browni						
California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
Rana draytonii						
California Ridgway's rail	ABNME05016	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S1	FP
Rallus obsoletus obsoletus						
California tiger salamander	AAAAA01180	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	WL
Ambystoma californiense						
Coastal Brackish Marsh	CTT52200CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
Coastal Brackish Marsh						
Conservancy fairy shrimp	ICBRA03010	Endangered	None	G2	S2	
Branchinecta conservatio						
Contra Costa wallflower	PDBRA16052	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S1	1B.1
Erysimum capitatum var. angustatum						
Delta mudwort	PDSCR10030	None	None	G4G5	S2	2B.1
Limosella australis						
Delta tule pea	PDFAB250D2	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
Lathyrus jepsonii var. jepsonii						
giant gartersnake	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	
Thamnophis gigas						
longfin smelt	AFCHB03010	Candidate	Threatened	G5	S1	SSC
Spirinchus thaleichthys						
Mason's lilaeopsis	PDAPI19030	None	Rare	G2	S2	1B.1
Lilaeopsis masonii						
saltmarsh common yellowthroat	ABPBX1201A	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
Geothlypis trichas sinuosa						
salt-marsh harvest mouse	AMAFF02040	Endangered	Endangered	G1G2	S1S2	FP
Reithrodontomys raviventris						



Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse	AMAFD01060	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
Perognathus inornatus						
short-eared owl	ABNSB13040	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Asio flammeus						
soft salty bird's-beak	PDSCR0J0D2	Endangered	Rare	G2T1	S1	1B.2
Chloropyron molle ssp. molle						
steelhead - Central Valley DPS	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11						
Suisun Marsh aster	PDASTE8470	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
Symphyotrichum lentum						
Suisun song sparrow	ABPBXA301K	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
Melospiza melodia maxillaris						
Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Buteo swainsoni						
tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Candidate	G2G3	S1S2	SSC
Agelaius tricolor			Endangered			
vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
Branchinecta lynchi						
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G4	S3S4	
Lepidurus packardi						
western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	None	G2G3	S1	
Bombus occidentalis						
western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
Emys marmorata						
yellow rail	ABNME01010	None	None	G4	S1S2	SSC
Coturnicops noveboracensis						

Record Count: 33



Plant List

Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants

5 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria

California Rare Plant Rank is one of [1B, 2B], FESA is one of [Endangered, Threatened], CESA is one of [Endangered, Threatened, Rare], Found in Quads 3812221, 3812128, 3812127, 3812211, 3812118, 3812117, 3712281 3712188 and 3712187;

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Blooming Period	CA Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank
Amsinckia grandiflora	large-flowered fiddleneck	Boraginaceae	annual herb	(Mar)Apr- May	1B.1	S1	G1
<u>Chloropyron molle ssp.</u> <u>molle</u>	soft bird's-beak	Orobanchaceae	annual herb (hemiparasitic)	Jun-Nov	1B.2	S1	G2T1
Erysimum capitatum var. angustatum	Contra Costa wallflower	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	Mar-Jul	1B.1	S1	G5T1
Neostapfia colusana	Colusa grass	Poaceae	annual herb	May-Aug	1B.1	S1	G1
Oenothera deltoides ssp. howellii	Antioch Dunes evening-primrose	Onagraceae	perennial herb	Mar-Sep	1B.1	S1	G5T1

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Contributors

The Calflora Database The California Lichen Society California Natural Diversity Database The Jepson Flora Project The Consortium of California Herbaria CalPhotos

Questions and Comments

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