

Endangered Species Review

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPAC) was accessed on April 1, 2021. The IPAC was used to generate a Natural Resources of Concern report. The report identified seven species that are listed as threatened or endangered that might occur at the project site. Information on the listed species, their habitat and diet were accessed through the Ventura U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website¹ on April 1, 2021.

However, four of the species (the California Red Legged Frog [amphibian], Southwestern Willow flycatcher [bird], Vernal Pool fairy shrimp (crustacean), and the Marsh Sandpiper all require aquatic habitats. The town of San Lucas does not have the appropriate habitat to support these species.

Mammals

San Joaquin Kit Fox – While San Lucas and the surrounding area is considered habitat for the San Joaquin Kit Fox it is unlikely that they will occur in the project area for several reasons:

- The project area is outside the traditional habitat range for this species. The traditional habitat has been the San Joaquin Valley.
- USFWS Refuges for the species are all in the San Joaquin Valley.
- The closest known populations at Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter Liggett in south Monterey County were considered extirpated in the Five-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation prepared by the USFWS in February 2010.
- The project location has been urbanized for over 100-years.

Birds

California Condor – Several breeding pairs of the California Condor have been reintroduced to the Pinnacles National Park, approximately 20 miles north of the project location. These birds are believed to travel as far as 150 miles in search of food (typically large animal carcasses) which means that it is possible that these birds may visit the project vicinity. However, since the project area is developed and there are no grazing operations in the town of San Lucas, it is unlikely that these birds will visit the project location.

Least Bell's Vireo – USFWS Refuges in which the Least Bell's vireo, is known to occur include San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Because the known populations appear to be found in the San Diego area, approximately 400 miles south-southeast of the project location, it is very unlikely that any of this species will be found at the project site.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher – Based on the U.S.F.W.S IPAC system it is unlikely that this species will occur within the project location. The species critical habitat is considered to be dense riparian habitats (cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation) with

¹ http://www.fws.gov/ventura/species_information/profiles/index.html

Endangered Species Review

microclimatic conditions dictated by the local surroundings. Saturated soils, standing water, or nearby streams, pools, or cienegas are a component of nesting habitat that also influences the microclimate and density vegetation component. Habitat not suitable for nesting may be used for migration and foraging

Amphibians

California Red Legged Frog – As noted above, the project location does not support the vernal pool habitat necessary to support this species. Therefore, it is very unlikely that the California Red Legged Frog will be found.

Crustaceans

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp - As noted above, the project location does not support the vernal pool habitat necessary to support this species. Therefore, it is very unlikely that the Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp will be found.

Flowering Plants

Marsh Sandwort – Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Fact Sheet for this species it is unlikely that it will occur within the project location. This is a coastal species that was historically known to occur in wetlands and in freshwater marshes. Neither of these habitats is found at the project site. According to the USFWS fact sheet there are only two known populations in California. The closest population is in the Morro Bay area, approximately 75 miles south of the project location.