

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
FOR THE**

±76-ACRE AMAZING FACTS STUDY AREA

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



Prepared for:
SHEARER AND ASSOCIATES
1404 N.E. 134th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685

Prepared by:



110 Maple Street, Auburn, California 95603
(530) 887-8500

SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Project Location..... | 1 |
| Setting..... | 1 |
| Proposed Project Description..... | 1 |
| Objectives of Biological Resource Assessment..... | 1 |
| METHODS | 1 |
| Literature Review | 1 |
| Special Status Species Reports | 4 |
| Field Surveys..... | 4 |
| Limitations of the Assessment..... | 5 |
| SURVEY AND LITERATURE SEARCH RESULTS | 5 |
| Geology and Soils | 5 |
| Hydrology | 5 |
| Biological Communities..... | 5 |
| Foothill Woodland..... | 7 |
| Annual Grassland | 7 |
| Pond..... | 8 |
| Regulated Habitats | 8 |
| Waters of the United States | 8 |
| Streams, Ponds, and Riparian Habitats | 8 |
| Oak Woodland, Oaks and Other Trees..... | 8 |
| Special Status Species..... | 8 |
| Plants | 12 |
| Wildlife | 14 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | 17 |
| Waters of the United States | 17 |
| Streams, Pond, and Riparian Habitat | 17 |
| Oak Woodland, Oaks and Other Trees | 17 |
| Special Status Plants..... | 17 |
| Special Status Wildlife | 18 |
| REFERENCES AND OTHER RESOURCES..... | 20 |

FIGURES

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Figure 1. Site & Vicinity | 2 |
| Figure 2. Aerial Photo..... | 3 |
| Figure 3. Habitat Map..... | 6 |

TABLES

| | |
|--|---|
| Table 1. Biological Communities Present Within the Amazing Facts Study Area | 5 |
| Table 2. Special Status Species That Could Occur Within the Amazing Facts Study Area | 9 |

APPENDICES

| | |
|--|--|
| Appendix A. Plant Species Observed within the Amazing Facts Study Area | |
| Appendix B. Wildlife Species Observed within the Amazing Facts Study Area | |
| Appendix C. Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area | |
| Appendix D. Special Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area | |

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ±76-ACRE AMAZING FACTS STUDY AREA

INTRODUCTION

Project Location

North Fork Associates conducted a biological resource assessment for an approximately 76-acre project site in Placer County, California. The Study Area is located along Sierra College Boulevard just south of Rocklin Road. The location corresponds to Section 28 of Township 11 North and Range 7 East on the 7.5 minute Rocklin, United States Geological Survey quadrangle (Figure 1). The latitude and longitude of the approximate center of the site are 121° 12' 25.94" West and 38° 46' 13.42" North. The Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) are 046-050-006 and 046-050-008.

Setting

The Study Area is located at an elevation between approximately 300 and 520 feet. The Study Area is bounded by Sierra College Boulevard to the north and adjacent land uses include residential developments to the north and rural residential to the west, east and south (Figure 2).

Proposed Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction of a church and a parking lot in the northwest corner of the Study Area. Road access is proposed off of Sierra College Boulevard.

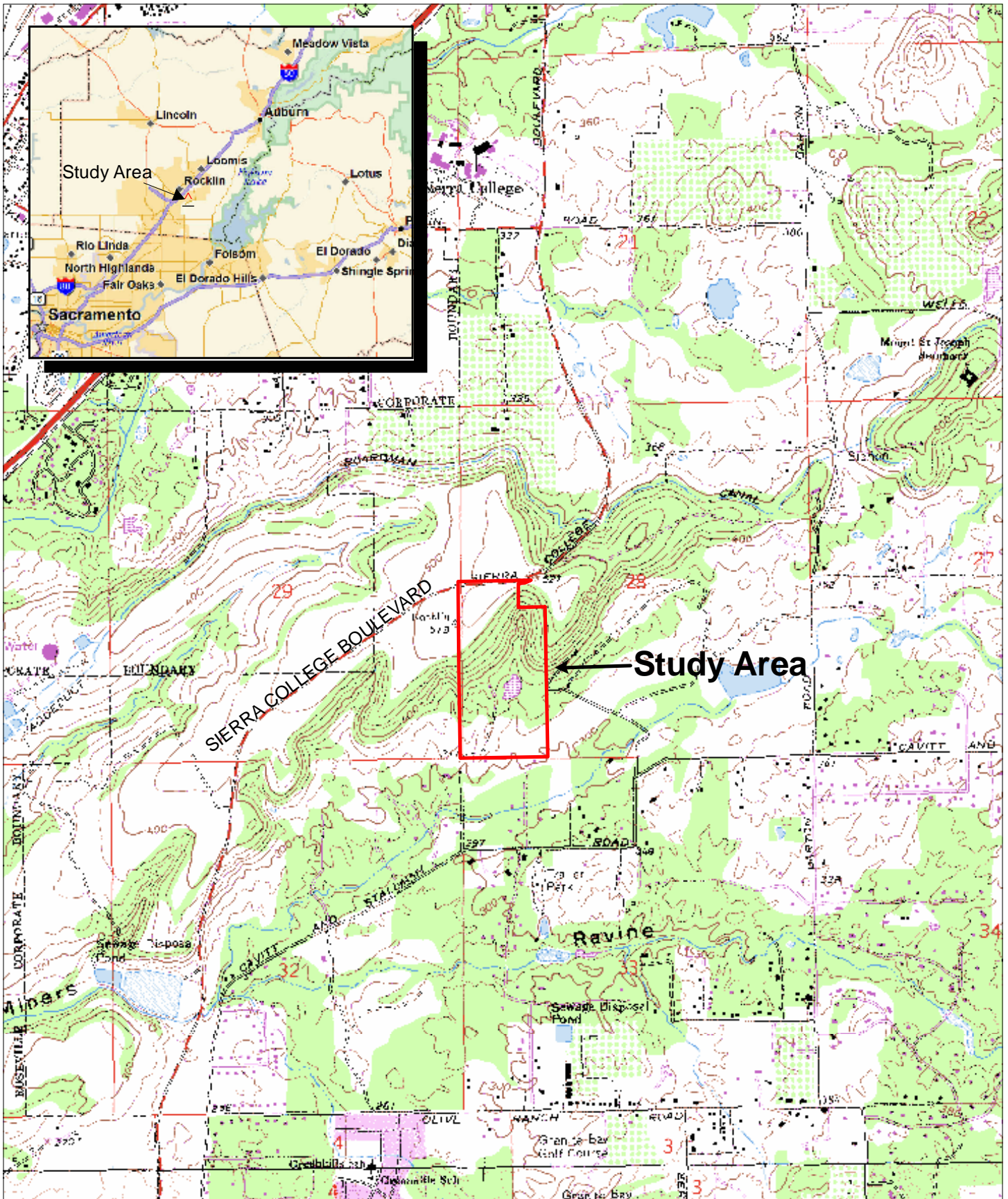
Objectives of Biological Resource Assessment

- Identify and describe the biological communities present on the Study Area.
- Record plant and animal species observed on the Study Area.
- Evaluate and identify sensitive resources and special-status plant and animal species that could be affected by project activities.
- Provide conclusions and recommendations.

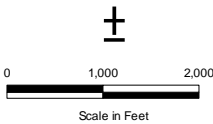
METHODS

Literature Review

A variety of resources were used in this assessment. An aerial photo was obtained from California Spatial Information Library in August 2005. Geological information was taken from the Geologic Map of California, Sacramento Sheet (California Department of Conservation). Soil information was obtained from the *Placer County, Soil Survey* (USDA, NRCS 1980).



Study Area



NOTES:
 Base map: Rocklin, CA, USGS
 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle
 Section: 28
 Township: 11N
 Range: 07E

Figure 1
SITE & VICINITY MAP
Amazing Facts
 Placer County, California

Cyperus eragrostis
Eleocharis macrostachya

Tall flatsedge
Creeping spikerush

Juncaceae

Juncus bufonius
Juncus mexicanus

Toad rush
Mexican rush

Liliaceae

Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. *pomeridianum*

Soap plant

Poaceae

**Aira caryophyllea*
**Avena barbata*
**Briza minor*
**Bromus diandrus*
**Bromus hordeaceus*
**Bromus madritensis* subsp. *madritensis*
**Cynosurus echinatus*
Deschampsia danthonioides
**Gastridium phleoides*
**Hordeum marinum* subsp. *gussoneanum*
**Hordeum murinum*
Leersia oryzoides
**Lolium multiflorum*
Melica sp.
Nassella pulchra
**Paspalum dilatatum*
**Polypogon monspeliensis*
**Taeniatherum caput-medusae*
**Vulpia bromoides*
**Vulpia myuros*

Silver European hairgrass
Slender wild oat
Small quaking grass
Ripgut grass
Soft chess
Spanish brome
Hedgehog dogtail
Annual hairgrass
Nit grass
Mediterranean barley
Foxtail barley
Rice cutgrass
Italian ryegrass
Melicgrass
Purple needlegrass
Dallis grass
Annual beard grass
Medusahead
Brome fescue
Rattail fescue

Themidaceae

Brodiaea elegans subsp. *elegans*
Dichelostemma capitatum subsp. *capitatum*
Triteleia laxa

Harvest brodiaea
Blue dicks
Ithuriel's spear

Typhaceae

Typha angustifolia

Narrow-leaved cattail

Appendix B.
Wildlife Species Observed within the Amazing Facts Study Area

Appendix B
Wildlife Species Observed within the Amazing Facts Study Area

Fish

Sunfish *Lepomis ssp.*

Amphibians

Pacific chorus frog *Pseudacris regilla*
Bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*

Birds

Turkey vulture *Cathartes aura*
Canada goose *Branta canadensis*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Red-shouldered hawk *Buteo lineatus*
Red-tailed hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*
American kestrel *Falco sparverius*
Wild turkey *Meleagris gallopavo*
Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*
Mourning dove *Zenaida macroura*
Great Horned owl *Bubo virginianus*
Anna's hummingbird *Calypte anna*
Acorn woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*
Ash-throated flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*
Oak titmouse *Baeolophus inornatus*
Bushtit *Psaltriparus minimus*
White-breasted nuthatch *Sitta carolinensis*
Lark sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*
House finch *Carpodacus mexicanus*
Lesser goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria*

Mammals

Black-tailed hare *Lepus californicus*
Raccoon *Procyon lotor*
Mule deer *Odocoileus hemionus*

Appendix C.
**Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts
Study Area**

Appendix C

Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| Family Taxon Common Name | Status* | Flowering Period | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|--|---|------------------|--|---|
| Adoxaceae | | | | |
| <i>Viburnum ellipticum</i> Western viburnum | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 2.3 | May-July | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest. | None. This species prefers steeper, moister slopes. |
| Alismataceae | | | | |
| <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-August | Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater). | Possible. Could occur on pond margins. |
| Asteraceae | | | | |
| <i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis macrolepis</i> Big-scale balsam-root | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | March-June | Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland; [sometimes serpentinite]. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Packera layneae</i> Layne's ragwort | Fed: FT State: CR CNPS: List 1B.2 | April-July | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i> Hartweg's pseudobahia | Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: List 1B.1 | March-May | Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland; [clay soil]. About 150 m. | Unlikely. Only marginal habitat is present. |
| <i>Wyethia reticulata</i> El Dorado County mules ears | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-July | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; [clay or gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |

Appendix C

Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| Family Taxon Common Name | Status* | Flowering Period | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|---|---|------------------|--|--|
| Campanulaceae | | | | |
| <i>Downingia pusilla</i> Dwarf downingia | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 2.2 | March-May | Valley and foothill grassland (mesic); vernal pools. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Legenere limosa</i> Legenere | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.1 | April-June | Vernal pools. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present, although this species prefers deeper pools. |
| Cistaceae | | | | |
| <i>Helianthemum suffrutescens</i> Bisbee Peark rush-rose | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 3.2 | April-June | Chaparral (often serpentinite, gabbroic, or Ione soil). | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| Convolvulaceae | | | | |
| <i>Calystegia stebbinsii</i> Stebbins' false bindweed | Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: List 1B.1 | May-June | Chaparral (openings); cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| Juncaceae | | | | |
| <i>Juncus leiospermus ahartii</i> Ahart's dwarf rush | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | March-May | Vernal pools. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Juncus leiospermus leiospermus</i> Red Bluff dwarf rush | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.1 | March-May | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grassland; vernal pools; [vernally mesic]. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |

Appendix C

Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| Family Taxon Common Name | Status* | Flowering Period | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|--|---|------------------|---|---|
| Liliaceae | | | | |
| <i>Allium jepsonii</i> Jepson's onion | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-August | Cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest [serpentinite or volcanic]. 300 to 1160 meters. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Chlorogalum grandiflorum</i> Red Hills soaproot | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-June | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i> Butte County fritillary | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 3.2 | March-May | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest (openings); [sometimes serpentinite]. | Unlikely. Only very marginal habitat is present. |
| Onagraceae | | | | |
| <i>Clarkia biloba brandegeae</i> Brandegee's clarkia | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-July | Chaparral; cismontane woodland [often on roadcuts]. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |
| Poaceae | | | | |
| <i>Orcuttia viscida</i> Sacramento Valley Orcutt grass | Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: List 1B.1 | May-June | Vernal pools. | Unlikely. Very few of the pools are deep enough for this species. |
| Polemoniaceae | | | | |
| <i>Navarretia myersii myersii</i> Pincushion navarretia | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.1 | May-May | Vernal pools. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |

Appendix C

Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| Family Taxon Common Name | Status* | Flowering Period | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|--|---|------------------|--|--|
| Rhamnaceae | | | | |
| <i>Ceanothus roderickii</i> Pine Hill ceanothus | Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-June | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [serpentinite or gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| Rubiaceae | | | | |
| <i>Galium californicum sierrae</i> Eldorado bedstraw | Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: List 1B.2 | May-June | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; lower montane coniferous forest; [gabbroic]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| Scrophulariaceae | | | | |
| <i>Cordylanthus mollis hispidus</i> Hispid bird's-beak | Fed: - State: - CNPS: List 1B.1 | June-September | Meadows; playas; [alkaline]. 1- 155m. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |
| <i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop | Fed: - State: CE CNPS: List 1B.2 | April-June | Marshes and swamps (lake margins); vernal pools. Below 1200 m. | Possible. Suitable habitat is present. |
| Sterculiaceae | | | | |
| <i>Fremontodendron californicum decumbens</i> Pine Hill flannelbush | Fed: FE State: CR CNPS: List 1B.2 | April-June | Chaparral; cismontane woodland; [gabbroic or serpentinite]. | None. No suitable habitat is present. |

Appendix C

Special Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| Family | Taxon | Status* | Flowering Period | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|-------------|-------|---------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Common Name | | | | | |

*Status

Federal:

FE - Federal Endangered
FT - Federal Threatened
FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered
FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened
FC - Federal Candidate

State:

CE - California Endangered
CT - California Threatened
CR - California Rare
CSC - California Species of Special Concern

CNPS (California Native Plant Society - List.RED Code):

List 1A - Extinct
List 1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2 - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, more common elsewhere
List 3 - Plants about which more information is needed, a review list
List 4 - Plants of limited distribution, a watch list

RED Code

1 - Seriously endangered (>80% of occurrences threatened)
2 - Fairly endangered (20 to 80% of occurrences threatened)
3 - Not very endangered (<20% of occurrences threatened)

Appendix D.
**Special Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts
Study Area**

Appendix D
Special Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| | Status* | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Invertebrates | | | |
| Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> | Fed: FT State: - Other: - | Vernal pools and other temporary bodies of water in southern and Central Valley of California. Most common in smaller grass or mud bottomed swales or basalt flow depression pools in unplowed grasslands. | Possible. Habitat components present on study site. |
| Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> | Fed: FE State: - Other: - | Found in vernal pools in the Central Valley of California and in the San Francisco Bay area. Inhabits vernal pools with clear to highly turbid water. | Unlikely. Habitat requirement of deeper pools are not present on the study site. |
| Conservancy fairy shrimp <i>Brachinecta conservatio</i> | Fed: FE State: - Other: - | Endemic to the Central Valley and southern coastal regions of California. Prefers larger, turbid, cool-water vernal pools located in alluvial swales. | Unlikely. Restricted known range in western Placer County. |
| Insects | | | |
| Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> | Fed: FT State: - Other: * | Requires host plant, elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.) for most of its life cycle. Shrubs must have stem diameters at ground level of 1.0 inch or greater and shrubs must be found less than 3,000 feet in elevation. Typically riparian and upland associated. | None. No elderberry shrubs observed on the study area. |
| Amphibians | | | |
| Western spadefoot toad <i>Spea hammondi</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: - | Found primarily in grassland habitats, but may occur in valley and foothill woodlands. Requires vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, or stock ponds for breeding and egg laying. | Possible. Deeper vernal pools and pond provide habitat. |
| California red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> | Fed: FT State: CSC Other: - | Occurs in lowlands and foothills in deeper pools and slow-moving streams, usually with emergent wetland vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. | Unlikely. Presence of predators and proximity of nearest occurrence reduce possibility. |

Appendix D
Special Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| | Status* | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Reptiles | | | |
| Northwestern pond turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata marmorata</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: * | Inhabits ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Requires suitable basking sites and upland habitat for egg laying. | Possible. Pond provides habitat. |
| Birds | | | |
| White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i> | Fed: - State: CFP Other: * | Found in lower foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and along river bottomlands or marshes adjacent to oak woodlands. Nests in trees with dense tops. | Possible. Nesting habitat occurs within the study area. |
| Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Fed: FT State: CFP Other: * | Occurs along shorelines, lake margins, and rivers. Nests in large, old-growth or dominant trees with open branches. | None. No habitat on the study area. |
| Cooper's hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: - | Breeds in deciduous, mixed, and coniferous forests. Becoming more common in suburban and urban areas. Occurs in open to interrupted woodland. | Possible. Nesting habitats present. |
| Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> | Fed: - State: CT Other: * | Breeds in open areas with scattered trees; prefers riparian and sparse oak woodland habitats. Requires nearby grasslands, grain fields, or alfalfa for foraging. Rare breeding species in Central Valley. | None. Patches of suitable habitat too small; study area outside of known range. |
| California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> | Fed: - State: CT Other: * | Inhabits salt, fresh, and brackish water marshes with little daily and/or annual water fluctuations. In freshwater habitats, preference is for dense bulrush and cattails. Several scattered populations documented from Butte Co. to southern Nevada Co. | Unlikely. Cover habitat not present and rare resident of freshwater marshes of western foothills. |
| Burrowing owl <i>Athene cucularia</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: * | Found in annual and perennial grasslands. Nests in burrows dug by small mammals, primarily ground squirrels. | None. No burrow systems present on study area. |

Appendix D

Special Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Vicinity of the Amazing Facts Study Area

| | Status* | Habitat | Probability on Project Site |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: * | Found in broken woodlands, shrubland, and other habitats. Prefers open country with scattered perches for hunting and fairly dense brush for nesting. | Possible. Suitable nesting habitat present. |
| Bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i> | Fed: - State: CT Other: * | Colonial nester near riparian and other lowland habitats. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with fine-textured, sandy soils near streams, rivers, and lakes. | None. No habitat on the study area. |
| Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: * | Colonial nester in dense cattails, tules, brambles or other dense vegetation. Requires open water, dense vegetation, and open grassy areas for foraging. | None. Open water present, but pond lacking suitable adjacent vegetation. |

Mammals

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Silver-haired bat <i>Lasiorycteris noctivagans</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: - | Coniferous forests, oak woodland, and riparian habitats. Roosts in hollow trees, snags, buildings, and rocks. Migratory species. | Possible. May roost in mature trees with cavities. |
| Pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i> | Fed: - State: CSC Other: * | Occurs in grasslands, woodlands, deserts & urban habitats; open habitat required for foraging. Common in dry habitats with rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices for roosting. Roosts include caves, mines, bridges & occasionally hollow trees, buildings. | Possible. Rocky outcrops present on site along with trees for roosting habitat. |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| *Status | Federal: | State: | Other: |
| | FE - Federal Endangered FT - Federal Threatened FPE - Federal Proposed Endangered FPT - Federal Proposed Threatened FC - Federal Candidate FPD - Federal Proposed for Delisting | CE - California Endangered CT - California Threatened CR - California Rare CC - California Candidate CFP - California Fully Protected CSC - California Species of Special Concern | Some species have protection under the other designations, such as the California Department of Forestry Sensitive Species, Bureau of Land Management Sensitive Species, U.S.D.A. Forest Service Sensitive Species, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Raptors and their nests are protected by provisions of the California Fish and Game Code. Certain areas, such as wintering areas of the monarch butterfly, may be protected by policies of the California Department of Fish and Game. |