SUPPLEMENT TO SECTION 4.4, BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Table 4.4-3 of the Revised Draft EIR is amended to include the addition of the Conservancy fairy shrimp as shown below:

Table 4.4-3 Listed and Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring in the Specific Plan Area, Specific Plan Area Vicinity, or Off-site Infrastructure Areas					
Species	Federal (USFWS)	State (CDFG)	CNPS	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
INVERTEBRATES					
Conservancy fairy shrimp Branchinecta conservatio	Е			Vernal pools, some seasonal wetlands	Low: Although suitable habitat is available in and near the plan area, the species is typically considered of limited distribution. Ongoing surveys have not identified it as occurring within the Specific Pan area.

The text of the Revised Draft EIR has been modified to add the following text under "Special-Status Wildlife, Invertebrates" appearing on Revised Draft EIR pages 4.4-14 and 4.4-15:

Conservancy Fairy Shrimp

During March 2007, the Conservancy fairy shrimp, (*Branchinecta conservatio*) was reported to occur in western Placer County. The Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*) was listed as an endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, on September 19, 1994 (USFWS 1994). This species is usually associated with coolwater pools, which are low to moderate in dissolved solids (Eriksen and Belk 1999). Conservancy fairy shrimp have been netted from November to late April, at water temperatures ranging from as low as 41°F (5°C) early in the ponding cycle, to as high as 75°F (24°C) near the end of the season (Syrdahl 1993, *as cited in* Eriksen and Belk 1999). Hatching generally occurs in the week following inundation of the pool at temperatures around 50°F (10°C). Maturation takes at least 19 days; if pool temperatures slowly increase to at least 68°F (20°C); however, the average time to maturity is 49 days (Eriksen and Belk 1999).

The documented distribution of Conservancy fairy shrimp is limited to the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley, at an elevation range of approximately 16 to 475 feet (5 to 145 meters) above mean sea level (Eriksen and Belk 1999). Populations of *B. conservatio* have been documented within a limited range and include the Glide Tule Elk Reserve (Yolo County), Vina Plains (Tehama County), Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) (Glenn County), along Highway 99 (Butte County), Jepson Prairie Preserve and the surrounding area immediately east of Travis Air Force Base (Solano County), Mapes Ranch (Stanislaus County), and near Haystack Mountain northeast of Merced and the Merced/San Luis NWR complex (Merced County) (Eriksen and Belk 1999, CDFG 2003). In addition, there is one occurrence from Beale Air Force Base (AFB) (Yuba County) where an undetermined number of *B. conservatio* were observed and

"one specimen was collected and deposited in the personal collection of D.G. Alexander" (CDFG 2003). As of March 9, 2007, *B. conservatio* is also reported from "west of Lincoln" in western Placer County (Clark, pers. comm.). Prior to this report for western Placer County, the nearest documented occurrence of *B. conservatio* to the Placer Vineyards Specific Plan Area was approximately 22 miles distant, at the Glide Tule Elk Reserve in Yolo County. The Beale AFB occurrence is located approximately 29 miles north of the Plan Area. The Solano County populations are located approximately 36 to 44 miles southwest of the Plan Area (CDFG 2003).

Based upon the March 2007 report, *B. conservatio* is now considered as potentially-occurring within the Placer Vineyards Specific Plan Area and potential off-site improvement areas, although it is still considered "unlikely" to occur there, based on its prior-documented limited distribution and the fact that ongoing determinate surveys for vernal pool aquatic invertebrates throughout the plan area have, thus far, not indicated its presence.

The Conservancy fairy shrimp has essentially the same habitat requirements and potentially occupies the same types of habitats as the other vernal pool aquatic invertebrates already identified as potentially-occurring (i.e., vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and California *linderiella*). Revised Draft EIR Impact statements 4.4-2 and 4.4-16 already address listed vernal pool invertebrates and no modifications to these impacts are necessary. Mitigation Measures 4.4-2 and 4.4-16 provide mitigation for impacts to the affected vernal pool species and habitat, which would include Conservancy fairy shrimp, if present. The impacts remain significant and unavoidable with mitigation because the mitigation measures do not guarantee preservation of affected vernal pools.

ENDNOTES

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2003. Rarefind, California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database. Version 3.1.0, updated March 3, 2007.

Clark, Loren. Pers. Comm. Voicemail. March 14, 2007.

- Eriksen, C. and D. Belk. 1999. Fairy Shrimps of California's Puddles, Pools, and Playas. Mad River Press, Inc. Eureka, CA.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1994. Determination of endangered status for the Conservancy fairy shrimp, longhorn fairy shrimp, and the vernal pool tadpole shrimp; and threatened status for the vernal pool fairy shrimp. Federal Register 59(180):48136-48153.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1996. Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act Consultation on Issuance of 404 Permits for Projects with Relatively Small Effects on Listed Vernal Pool Crustaceans Within the Jurisdiction of the Sacramento Field Office, California.