

## 3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The assessment of existing conditions and analysis of effects to biological resources was based upon biological field surveys conducted to document existing habitat types and determine the potential for occurrence of federally listed species within the Rohnert Park properties (Wilfred and Stony Point sites) and the Lakeville site; consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and a review of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) for reported occurrences of federally listed species within the project vicinity (**Appendix I**). Biological surveys were conducted in 2003 at the Lakeville site, and 2004 at the Rohnert Park sites (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; 2007). Biologists from AES surveyed the Rohnert Park properties site in 2004 and 2005, and obtained supplementary background information from another recent Biological Assessment (BA) of the Russian River watershed, which shed light on the fishery resources of the Laguna de Santa Rosa (Entrix, 2004).

### 3.5.1 REGIONAL SETTING

#### *WILFRED SITE*

The Wilfred site is agricultural lands located on the flat Santa Rosa Plain. Within portions of an un-sectioned area of Township 6 North, Range 9 West, Mt. Diablo Baseline and Meridian, Cotati, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle, at an elevation of approximately 85-feet. The site consists of three areas: the lower 182-acres of the 360-acre Stony Point site; a 4-acre area west of Business Park Drive and northwest of the terminus of Park Court; and a 66-acre area bounded roughly by Langner Avenue on the west, Wilfred Avenue on the north, Dowdell on the east, and Business Park Drive on the south (**Figure 3.5-1**).

#### *STONY POINT SITE*

The 360-acre Stony Point site is bounded on the north by Wilfred Avenue, on the west by Stony Point Road, on the east by Dowdell Avenue, and on the south by Rohnert Park Expressway, the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Business Park Drive. This area is largely agricultural land, with the Bellevue-Wilfred Flood Control Channel bisecting the site north to south (**Figure 3.5-1**).

#### *LAKEVILLE SITE*

The Lakeville site consists of approximately 322-acres in southern Sonoma County in the “Sonoma Baylands” region north of San Pablo Bay. Where the Sonoma Mountains meet the coastal plain in an unsectioned area of Petaluma Point, California and Sears Point, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle. The site consists of coastal salt marsh, diked ponds, grasslands, and hills, which afford habitat for several special status species, and other sensitive resources such as wildlife breeding areas and wetlands (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007).

### 3.5.2 VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

#### *WILFRED SITE*

The northwest corner of the Wilfred site is mainly ruderal annual grasslands and cultivated fields, though areas supporting hydrophytic vegetation (wetlands) are scattered throughout. The area is cropped annually, and therefore, has high incidences of disturbance. Drainage ditches and the Bellevue-Wilfred Flood Control Channel occurs in the southwestern 182-acre area, along with cultivated fields, annual grassland, and seasonal wetlands. The 4-acre parcel has been graded and is composed of annual grassland habitat. A vegetation map of the Wilfred site is presented as **Figure 3.5-1**.

#### *Annual Grassland*

Annual grassland on-site covers the upland habitat of the northwest corner of the Wilfred site. This habitat includes species typical of grazed annual grassland and grasslands subject to agricultural use. Species found on the site included Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) and various species of mustard (*Brassica nigra*, *Brassica rapa*, etc.). Other species common in the area include: canary grass (*Phalaris paradoxa*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), bristly oxtongue (*Picris echinoides*), vetches (*Vicia sativa* and *V. cracca*), wild and slender oats (*Avena fatua*, *Avena barbata*), hare barley (*Hordeum murinum*), six-weeks fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*), common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*), a variety of clovers (*Trifolium hirtum*, *T. subterraneum*, *T. dubium*, *T. variegatum*), plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

The western portion of the 182-acre area, including the parcels south of Rohnert Park Expressway on either side of the Bellevue-Wilfred Channel, also contains ruderal annual grassland. This area is largely comprised of primarily non-native, annual grasses and associated weedy non-native herbaceous species. The dominant grass in the area is Italian ryegrass, while meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) and the native herb dwarf brodiaea (*Brodiaea terrestris*) are also relatively abundant. Species conspicuous in the southern third of this area are: hayfield tarplant (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*), spiny clotbur (*Xanthium spinosum*), bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echinoides*), purple star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*), and the late-flowering goosefoot (*Chenopodium strictum* var. *glaucophyllum*). These large herbs are uncommon the northern part of this area, though hayfield tarplant, bristly ox-tongue, and purple star thistle are scattered throughout. Other non-native grasses include: soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), Mediterranean barley, six-weeks fescue, ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), and California semaphore grass

Figure 3.5-1, Vegetation Map – Stony Point and Wilfred site

(*Pleuropogon californicus*). Non-native herbaceous species include: bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), narrow-leaved vetch (*Vicia sativa* ssp. *nigra*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), Fiddle dock (*Rumex pulcher*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), and bur-clover (*Medicago polymorpha*). Meanwhile, native species present in this area include: blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), California buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), and common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*). (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**). Photographs of the western portion of the 182-acre area are included in **Figure 3.5-2**.

Grasslands provide resources for many different types of wildlife. Characteristic reptiles of open grassland habitats include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), and common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). Common bird species that forage in grasslands include savanna sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), and other grassland species. A few bird species, such as western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), and lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), nest in grassland habitats.

In areas of open grassland characterized by deeper soils and thick grasses, the seeds and vegetative parts of grasses provide food and cover for the California vole (*Microtus californicus*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and other small mammals. Rodents and other small mammals found in the grasslands attract predatory species including: red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and others.

### **Seasonal Pools and Wetlands**

Wetlands may be defined as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (Braddock and Huppman, 1995). The wetlands between Labath Avenue and Langner Avenue contain, several obligate wetland species including: California semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon californicus*), miniature buttercup (*Ranunculus pusillus*), spiny-fruited buttercup (*Ranunculus muricatus*), fringed dowingia (*Dowlingia concolor*), American pillwort (*Pilularia americana*), quillwort (*Isoetes* sp.), speedwell (*Veronica peregrina*), water starwort (*Callitriche marginata*), Douglas meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), and Bloomer's buttercup (*Ranunculus orthorhynchus*). Other species found in the wetlands that are not obligate wetland plants but are adapted to

Figure 3.5-2, California Annual Grassland – Stony Point site

frequently disturbed areas are: ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*) and hyssop loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolium*).

The wetlands in the area between Labath and Dowdell Avenues support a combination of the following species: fringed dowingia, quillwort, flowering quillwort (*Lilaea scilloides*), water starwort, American pillwort, pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), spike rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), California semaphore grass, miniature buttercup, and coyote thistle (*Eryngium aristulatum*). Some of the wetlands were subject to shorter periods of inundation, additional species found in these wetlands were: brown-headed rush (*Juncus phaeocephalus*), annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*), yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp *gussoneanum*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Additional seasonal wetlands are found west of Bellevue-Wilfred Channel. The species compositions vary considerably from pool to pool. The pool along the western border historically contained Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) and Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), though they were not found on-site during any of the plant surveys. Instead, the area currently contains plants such as California semaphore grass, Jepson's coyote-thistle, pale spike-rush, brown-headed rush, smooth lasenthia (*Lasenthia glaberrima*), Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*), Douglas' pogogyne (*Pogogyne douglasii*), maroon-spotted dowingia (*Dowingia concolor* var. *concolor*), waxy manna grass (*Glyceria declinata*), pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*), annual beard grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), curly dock, and bindweed.

The wetlands occurring in the irrigated pastures have an altered wet season due to irrigation during the late spring and summer. Moreover, these pools have also been substantially impacted by grazing and trampling. Species common to these pools include: California semaphore grass, tall cyperus (*Cyperus eragrostis*), water manna grass (*Glyceria occidentalis*), water foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), curly dock, waxy manna grass, strawberry clover, (*Trifolium fragiferum*), bristly ox-tongue, barnyard grass (*Echinochloa crusgalli*), small barnyard grass (*Echinochloa colona*), cocklebur, pale willow-weed (*Polygonum lapathifolium*), and western yellow-cress (*Rorippa curvisiliqua*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**). Photographs of the seasonal pools and wet area habitat are presented in **Figure 3.5-3**.

### ***Drainage Ditches and Canals***

Laguna de Santa Rosa and its tributary flood control channels and ditches are characterized as low gradient, and at times, intermittent waterbodies. Agriculture is common on the Santa Rosa Plain adjacent to the Laguna. A general lack of canopy cover results in high water temperature (Entrix, 2004). In an attempt to improve the habitat of the Laguna and its tributary flood control channels, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) has planted container stock of native trees and shrubs to recreate vegetative cover. The channel is largely vegetated with emergent yellow water-weed (*Ludwigia peploides* ssp. *montevidensis*) with broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and tuberous bulrush (*Scirpus tuberosus*) along the margins. Other species occurring in the

Figure 3-5.3, Seasonal Pools and Wet Areas – Stony Point site

channel or on the margins include: tall cyperus, water smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*), willow-herb (*Epilobium ciliatum* ssp. *ciliatum*), white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and curly dock. Trees include: arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), box elder (*Acer negundo* ssp. *californicum*), and California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *hindsii*).

There are several on-site drainage ditches in addition to the Wilfred-Bellevue Canal. The ditches were up to six feet deep and were vegetative with water evening primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*), eragrostoid sedge, water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), spearscale (*Atriplex triangularis*), creeping wildrye (*Leymus triticoides*), bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*), fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006).

During periods of flow, the drainage channels represent habitat for warm-water fish species commonly found in creeks in the area. Species that may use these habitats for breeding and/or migration corridors include Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), western toad (*Bufo boreas*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), and northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). Isolated patches of woody riparian vegetation occurring along the creek channel provide forage, shelter, and nesting habitat for several birds and other wildlife species. The Wilfred-Bellevue Canal and one of the several drainage ditches of the site are shown in **Figure 3.5-4**.

#### ***Cultivated Fields***

Portions of the property are regularly disked and plowed for purposes of hay production. Many of the grasses and forbs were the same as those found in the Ruderal annual grassland type and on the sides of ditches and canals. In addition, perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), clovers, bristly ox-tongue, curly dock, field mustard (*Brassica rapa*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), and cheeses (*Malva parviflora*) were common species. While not common, smooth spike-primrose was also found in these areas. Wildlife known to use the cultivated fields are generally the same as those that use the annual grassland habitat. (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**)

#### ***STONY POINT SITE***

Vegetation communities occurring within the Stony Point site include irrigated pasture, cultivated fields, and disturbed/ruderal areas (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**). Additional habitat types are canals, drainage ditches, California annual grassland, and seasonal pools and wetlands. These habitat types are discussed below. A vegetation map of the Stony Point site is presented as **Figure 3.5-1**.

Figure 3.5-4, Drainage Ditches and Canals – Stony Point site

### ***Annual Grassland***

Annual grassland on-site is similar to the California annual grassland series (Sawyer, 1995) and non-native grassland according to Holland (1986). California annual grassland occurs in two sizable areas of the property, one is located in the southwestern portion of the site, while the other is in the northeastern corner of the property. Characteristic grasses included Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), Mediterranean barley (*Hordeum marinum* ssp. *gussoneanum*), and soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*). Hayfield tarplant (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*) was also found in these areas (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**). Photographs of the southern area of the site are included in **Figure 3.5-2**. The southwestern area also contains dwarf brodiaea, spiny clotbur, bristly ox-tongue, purple star thistle, and late-flowering goosefoot. The northeastern section, on the other hand, contains Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), Kellogg's yampah (*Perideridia kelloggii*), panicked willow-herb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*), white brodiaea (*Triteleia hyacinthine*), brown-headed rush, Jepson's coyote-thistle (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *aristulatum*), bristly ox-tongue, prickly lettuce, curly dock, and bindweed. Trees found on the Stony Point site include three red willows (*Salix laevigata*) and a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*).

### ***Seasonal Pools and Wetlands***

Several areas of the site possess natural and man-made depressions that retain moisture relatively late in the season, including some low areas that were inundated. Some of the plants found in these seasonal pools and wet areas included field mint (*Mentha arvensis*), Jepson's coyote thistle (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *aristulatum*), annual beard grass, eragrostoid sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), Italian ryegrass, rose clover (*Trifolium hirta*), and white clover (*Trifolium repens*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006).

Seasonal wetlands found west of Bellevue-Wilfred Channel in the southern part of the site historically contained Sonoma sunshine and Burke's goldfields, though they were not found on-site during any of the plant surveys. Instead, the area currently contains plants such as California semaphore grass, Jepson's coyote-thistle, pale spike-rush, brown-headed rush, smooth lasenthia, Lobb's aquatic buttercup, Douglas' pogogyne, maroon-spotted dowingia, waxy manna grass, pennyroyal, annual beard grass, curly dock, and bindweed.

The wetlands occurring in the irrigated pastures have an altered wet season due to irrigation during the late spring and summer. Moreover, these pools have also been substantially impacted by grazing and trampling. Species common to these pools include: California semaphore grass, tall cyprus, water manna grass, water foxtail, curly dock, waxy manna grass, strawberry clover, bristly ox-tongue, barnyard grass, small barnyard grass, cocklebur, pale willow-weed and western yellow-cress.

Seasonal pools provide resources for wildlife and support a variety of sensitive plant and animal species, including federally listed species. Photographs of the seasonal pools and wet area habitat are presented in **Figure 3.5-3**.

### ***Drainage Ditches and Canals***

The Laguna de Santa Rosa, its tributary flood control channels and ditches are characterized as low gradient, and at times, intermittent waterbodies. Agriculture is common on the Santa Rosa Plain adjacent to the Laguna, thus, a general lack of canopy cover results in high water temperature (Entrix, 2004). In an attempt to improve the habitat of the Laguna and its tributary flood control channels the SCWA has planted container stock of native trees and shrubs to recreate vegetative cover. The channel is largely vegetated with emergent yellow water-weed (*Ludwigia peploides* ssp. *montevidensis*) with broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and tuberous bulrush (*Scirpus tuberosus*) along the margins. Other species occurring in the channel or on the margins include: tall cyperus, water smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*), willow-herb (*Epilobium ciliatum* ssp. *ciliatum*), white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and curly dock. Trees include: arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida* ssp. *lasiandra*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), valley oak, box elder (*Acer negundo* ssp. *californicum*), and California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *hindsii*).

Several drainage ditches and the Wilfred-Bellevue Canal occur on the site. The ditches are up to six feet deep and have water evening primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*), eragrostoid sedge, water plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*), spearscale (*Atriplex triangularis*), creeping wildrye (*Leymus triticoides*), bristly ox-tongue (*Picris echioides*), fuller's teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006).

During periods of flow, the drainage channels represent habitat for warm water fish species commonly found in creeks in the area. Species that may use these habitats for breeding and/or migration corridors include Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), western toad (*Bufo boreas*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), and northern rough-winged swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*). Isolated patches of woody riparian vegetation occurring along the creek channel provide forage, shelter, and nesting habitat for several birds and other wildlife species. The Wilfred-Bellevue Canal and one of the several drainage ditches of the site are shown in **Figure 3.5-4**.

### ***Irrigated Pasture***

Many of the grasses and forbs were the same as those found in the California annual grassland type and on the sides of ditches and canals. In addition, perennial ryegrass, clovers, bristly ox-

tongue, curly dock, field mustard (*Brassica rapa*), orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), and cheeses (*Malva parviflora*) were common associates of irrigated pasture on the property (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006). Four irrigated, fenced paddocks used for pasture occur on the site. Wildlife known to use irrigated pasture are generally the same as those that use the California annual grassland habitat.

#### ***Cultivated Fields***

Portions of the property are regularly disked and plowed for purposes of hay production. Vegetation and wildlife was similar to that found in irrigated pasture. In addition, smooth spike-primrose was found in these areas (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006). Wildlife known to use the cultivated fields are essentially identical to those that inhabit annual grassland.

#### ***Disturbed/Ruderal***

Disturbed/ruderal habitat within the Stony Point site is subject to substantial human activity and contains existing barns and infrastructure such as farm roads and power lines. Vegetation and wildlife were similar to those found in the agricultural areas described above (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006).

#### ***LAKEVILLE SITE***

Consisting of approximately 322 acres of land straddling Lakeville Highway, the Lakeville site contains two vegetation communities: annual grassland and seasonal wetland (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007; **Appendix K**).

#### ***Annual Grassland***

The Lakeville site primarily consists of annual grassland comprised of grass, weedy herbaceous, and other herbaceous species. The predominant species are non-native grass species that are common to the region, such as wild oats, ripgut brome, Italian ryegrass, rattlesnake grass (*Briza maxima*), and hare barley. The grassland contains many weedy herbaceous species common to habitat, including Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), bellardia (*Bellardia trixago*), purple Jonnytuck (*Triphysaria* sp.), parentucellia (*Parentucellia viscosa*), and various species of vetch (*Vicia* sp.). Grassland on both sides of Lakeville Highway contains showy wildflowers. East of the highway, plant diversity is greater with a more prevalent population of showy wildflowers. West of Lakeville Highway, wildflower species include lupine (*Lupinus nanus*, *Lupinus bicolor*, and others) and purple owl's clover (*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *densiflora*). East of the highway, showy wildflower species include lupine, California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), purple owl's clover, valley-tassels (*Castilleja attenuata*), Johnny jump-up (*Viola pendunculata*), tidytips (*Layia chrysanthemoides*), larkspur (*Delphinium variegatum*), buttercup, and yellow Mariposa lily (*Calochortus luteus*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007; **Appendix K**).

#### ***Seasonal Pools and Wetlands***

Several seasonal pools are located in the Lakeville site. These pools are shallow, distinct topographic depressions that hold water for varying lengths of time during the winter and spring, but then dry out completely by late spring or summer. Most of the pools are located west of Lakeville Highway. The seasonal pools range in size from less than 0.1 acres to nearly 5 acres, though most of them occupy less than 0.4 acres (Huffman-Broadway Group, 2006).

Seasonal pools at the Lakeville site support a variety of native and non-native species, most of which are indicators of seasonally wet or moist conditions. The composition of plant species is very similar from pool to pool. Native species found in most of the pools include California semaphore grass, Jepson's cocklebur, field mint, and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*). Many of the pools are dominated by some combination of California semaphore grass, Jepson's coyote-thistle, field mint, annual beard grass, and pale spike-rush.

One permanently inundated pond occurs immediately adjacent to the Lakeville site east of Lakeville Highway. The margins of this pond are densely vegetated. Pale spike-rush is the most abundant species. Knot grass (*Paspalum distichum*) and tall cyperus are frequently occurring associated species.

### ***Drainage***

Discontinuously distributed areas along seasonal or permanent watercourses at the Lakeville site support an assemblage of plants that are indicative of seasonally wet or moist conditions and, are distinctly different from the adjacent California annual grassland. Such areas are all located east of Lakeville Highway, typically in or around canyon bottoms. These areas are typically dominated by some combination of the native species Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), brown-headed rush, and pale spike-rush.

## **3.5.3 WILDLIFE**

### ***WILFRED SITE***

Raptors observed on the Wilfred site included turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*), and a western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). Birds were common in aquatic habitats of the property such as the Bellevue-Wilfred Channel. Species found on the site included pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Wilson's snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), sora (*Porzana carolina*), marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), and Lincoln's sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*). Additional birds seen included Anna's hummingbird

(*Calypte anna*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), American pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), purple finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

Several mammals were recorded including Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). In addition, a species of tree frog (an amphibian), and a western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) (a reptile) were observed on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

**Attachment 2** of the Huffman-Broadway Group report (**Appendix J**) gives a complete list of plant, reptile, mammal, amphibian, and bird species either observed at the site during site visits or can be expected to occur on the site given the habitat conditions and proximity to corridors.

#### **STONY POINT SITE**

Raptors observed on the Stony Point site included turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*), barn owl (*Tyto alba*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). White-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*) and a western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) were also seen (see next section). Birds were common in aquatic habitats of the property such as the Bellevue-Wilfred Channel. Species found on the site included pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Wilson's snipe (*Gallinago delicata*), Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), sora (*Porzana carolina*), marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), and Lincoln's sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*). Additional birds seen included Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), American pipit (*Anthus rubescens*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Dendroica coronata*), western

meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), golden-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), purple finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*), and house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

Several mammals were recorded including Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). In addition, a unidentified species of tree frog (amphibian), and a western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*, a reptile) were observed on-site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

**Attachment 2** of the Huffman-Broadway Group report (**Appendix J**) gives a complete list of plant, reptile, mammal, amphibian, and bird species either observed at the site during site visits or can be expected to occur on the site given the habitat conditions and proximity to corridors.

#### **LAKEVILLE SITE**

The Lakeville site supports many of the same raptors as the Stony Point site, with the addition of a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) sighted. In general, the bird fauna of the Lakeville site resembles the Stony Point site, however, at Lakeville, horned larks (*Eremophila alpestris*), Vaux's swifts (*Ixoreus naevius*), western bluebirds (*Sialia mexicana*), long-billed curlews (*Numenius americanus*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), double crested cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), and Canadian geese (*Branta canadensis*) were observed.

Mammals seen at Lakeville included California ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), California voles (*Microtus californicus*), black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus Hemionus*) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007; **Appendix K**).

### **3.5.4 FEDERALLY LISTED AND OTHER SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES**

For the purposes of this Final EIS, federally listed species include those plant and animal species that are listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA), formally proposed for listing, or listed by the Sacramento USFWS office as a Federal Species of Concern. The Sacramento USFWS office no longer maintains a list of Federal Species of Concern. However, since the USFWS maintained a list of Federal Species of Concern at the time of the issuance of the notice of intent to prepare an EIS, Federal Species of Concern were included in this EIS for a conservative analysis. A target species list of federally listed species that may potentially be affected by the Proposed Project and project alternatives was compiled

based upon a review of pertinent literature, aerial photographs, site topographic maps, consultation with the USFWS and other local experts, a query of the CNDDDB for reported occurrences of federally listed species within the project vicinity, and the results of biological field surveys (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**; Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007; **Appendix K**; USFWS, 2004; **Appendix I**).

#### **WILFRED SITE**

Based upon the review of regionally occurring special status species (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006) and their habitat requirements, and the results of the field assessment, the property and/or surrounding vicinity represents high-potential habitat for the following special status species. Potentially occurring special status plant species include: the Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) (**Figure 3.5-5**), Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*), and the many-flowered navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *plieantha*). Four years of species-specific surveys were conducted on most of the Wilfred site, with five years of species-specific surveys on the portion of the site that overlaps the Northwest Specific Plan area, as discussed in **Section 3.8.2**. Another one year of species-specific surveys was conducted on the 4.7-acre parcel that connects the northern and southern portions of the Wilfred site. Species-specific surveys identified the Sonoma sunshine and Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*) on-site.

Special-status animal species known to occur on the site include the California tiger salamander, northwestern pond turtle, white-tailed kite, ferruginous hawk, western burrowing owl, merlin, and loggerhead shrike (**Figure 3.5-6; Appendix J**). While the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) were not observed, suitable foraging habitat is present on-site. Additionally, the yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) may use the site during its fall migration. The name, regulatory status, habitat requirements, and period of identification for potentially occurring federally listed, special status species are identified in **Table 3.5-1** and briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

#### **STONY POINT SITE**

Based upon the results of the field assessment and the review of regionally occurring special status species (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006) and their habitat requirements, the property and the surrounding vicinity represents high potential habitat for the following special status plant species. These special status plant species include: the Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) (**Figure 3.5-5**), Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), Sebastopol meadowfoam (*Limnanthes vinculans*), and the many-flowered navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *plieantha*). Three years of species-specific surveys were conducted on the

Figure 3.5-5, Locations of Special status Plant Populations – Stony Point site and Vicinity

Figure 3.5-6, Reported Locations of California Tiger Salamander in the Vicinity of Stony Point site

**TABLE 3.5-1**  
**TARGET SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST – WILFRED AND STONY POINT SITES**

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<b>PLANTS</b>				
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i> var. <i>sonomensis</i> <b>Sonoma alopecurus</b>	FE	Known from fewer than five native occurrences in Marin and Sonoma counties, California. Elevation 5 to 210 m.	Found in freshwater marshes and swamps, and riparian scrub.	May-July
<i>Blennosperma bakeri</i> <b>Sonoma sunshine</b>	FE	Known only from the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Sonoma areas of Sonoma County, California. Elevation 10 to 110 m.	Vernal pools, mesic valley and foothill grassland.	March-May
<i>Carex albida</i> <b>White sedge</b>	FE	Known only from the Pitkin Marsh, Sonoma County, California. Elevation 15 to 90 m.	Bogs and fens, freshwater marshes and swamps.	May-July
<i>Chorizanthe valida</i> <b>Sonoma spineflower</b>	FE	Known from a single locality at Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, California. Elevation 10 to 305 m.	Found in sandy coastal prairie.	June-August
<i>Clarkia imbricata</i> <b>Vine Hill clarkia</b>	FE	Known from fewer than three occurrences (one introduced, another recently extirpated; and a third, extant) in Sonoma County, California. Elevation 50 to 75 m.	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland often on acidic, sandy loams.	June-August
<i>Cordylanthus mollis</i> ssp. <i>mollis</i> <b>Soft bird's-beak</b>	FE	Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano counties, California (extirpated from Marin, Sacramento, and Sonoma counties). Elevation 0 to 3 m.	Found in coastal marshes and swamps.	July-November
<i>Delphinium bakeri</i> <b>Baker's larkspur</b>	FE	Marin and Sonoma counties, California. Elevation 80 to 305 m.	Coastal scrub.	March-May
<i>Delphinium luteum</i> <b>Yellow larkspur</b>	FE	Marin and Sonoma counties, California. Elevation 0 to 100 m.	Found in chaparral, coastal prairie, and rocky coastal scrub.	March-May
<i>Lasthenia burkei</i> <b>Burke's goldfields</b>	FE	Southern Mendocino County, southern Lake County, and northeastern Sonoma County, California. Elevation 15 to 600 m.	Vernal pools, moist meadows.	April-June
<i>Lilium pardalinum</i> ssp. <i>pitkinense</i> <b>Pitkin marsh lily</b>	FE	Known only from two occurrences near Sebastopol, Sonoma County, California. Elevation 35 to 65 m.	Cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, freshwater marshes and swamps with sandy substrate.	June-July
<i>Limnanthes vinculans</i> <b>Sebastopol meadowfoam</b>	FE	Sonoma County, California (and one occurrence in Napa County). Elevation 15 to 305 m.	Vernal pools, vernal moist sites in meadows, valley and foothill grassland.	April-May
<i>Navarettia leucocephala</i> ssp. <i>pliantha</i> <b>Many-flowered navarettia.</b>	FE	Known from seven occurrences in Lake and Sonoma County, California. Elevation 30 to 950 m.	Vernal pools.	May-June
<i>Potentilla hickmanii</i> <b>Hickman's cinquefoil</b>	FE	Known only from two occurrences in Monterey and San Mateo counties, California. Elevation 10 to 135 m.	Coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps.	April-August
<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp. <i>valida</i> <b>Kenwood Marsh checkerbloom</b>	FE	Known only from three occurrences in Knights Valley, Sonoma County, California. Elevation 115 to 150 m.	Marshes and swamps.	June-September

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i> <b>Showy Indian clover</b>	FE	Extinct over much of its natural range from Santa Clara County north to Mendocino County, California. Rediscovered near Occidental in Sonoma County in 1993. Elevation 5 to 415 m.	Coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grassland (sometimes serpentine).	April-June
<b>ANIMALS</b>				
<b>Crustaceans</b>				
<i>Syncaris pacifica</i> <b>California freshwater shrimp</b>	FE	Endemic to Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.	Found in low gradient, perennial coastal streams. Streams are typically 1-3 feet deep, with exposed live roots along undercut banks, also with overhanging woody debris or stream vegetation.	All year
<b>Fish</b>				
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> <b>Steelhead</b> – Central California Coast ESU	FT	Federal listing includes all runs in coastal basins from the Russian River south to Soquel Creek including San Francisco and San Pablo bays.	Associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitats.	Consult Agency
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> <b>California tiger salamander</b>	FT	Western California from Sonoma County in the north to Santa Barbara County in the south.	Breeds in vernal pools and ponds of grassland and open woodland of low hills and valleys. Will utilize burrows for refuge.	November-February (adults) March 15-May15 (larvae)
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> <b>California red-legged frog</b>	FT	Butte and Mendocino County, California southward to Baja California, Mexico west of the Sierra Nevada, Peninsular Mountain axis.	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent or late-season sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent vegetation.	May-November
<i>Rana boylei</i> <b>Foothill yellow-legged frog</b>	FSC	Oregon Cascades south to the Sierra San Pedro Martir, Baja California, Mexico; including the Sierra Nevada, North Coast ranges, and San Gabriel Mountains.	Prefers partly shaded shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate.	May-November
<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i> <b>Northwestern pond turtle</b>	FSC	Western Washington south to Baja California, Mexico west of the Cascade, Sierra Nevada, and Peninsular Mountain axis.	Associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitats. Requires basking sites. Nests found up to 0.5 miles from water.	Consult Agency
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> <b>White-tailed kite</b>	FSC	Western Oregon and California; southern Texas, south to Mexico.	Nests in dense oak, willow, or other tree stands near open grasslands meadows, farmlands, and emergent wetlands.	February-September
<i>Buteo regalis</i> (wintering) <b>Ferruginous hawk</b>	FSC	Western United States and southern Saskatchewan, Canada, south to Mexico.	Found in dense coast scrub.	All year
<i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i> <b>Western burrowing owl</b>	FSC	Western United States and Mexico.	Uses elevated rodent or other burrow for roosting and nesting. Frequents open grasslands and shrub-lands.	Dec. 1-Jan.31 & April 15-July15
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> <b>Western yellow-billed cuckoo</b>	FC	Isolated pockets in the San Francisco Bay region, Mojave Desert, and San Diego region of California; south to Mexico.	Found in lowland riparian habitats. Nest and seek cover in densely foliated, deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows.	June-September

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> Loggerhead shrike	FSC	United States and western Canada.	Found in a variety of habitats with open areas, available perches, and dense shrubs for nesting.	March-August

NOTES:

**FEDERAL STATUS CODES: (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service)**

- FC = Federal Candidate for Listing
- FD = Federal Delisted
- FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government
- FLC = Federal species of local concern
- FSC = Federal species of concern
- FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government

SOURCES: CDFG, 2004a, b, c, d; CNDDDB, 2003; CNPS 2001, 2003; Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006, **Appendix J**; AES, 2004; USFWS, 2004; **Appendix I**.

entire Stony Point site. Species-specific surveys only found Sonoma sunshine and Lobb's aquatic buttercup (*Ranunculus lobbii*).

Special-status animal species known to occur on the site include the California tiger salamander, northwestern pond turtle, white-tailed kite, ferruginous hawk, western burrowing owl, merlin, and loggerhead shrike (**Figure 3.5-6; Appendix J**). While the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) were not observed, foraging habitat occurs on the site. Additionally, the yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) may use the site during its fall migration.

#### ***Sonoma Sunshine***

Sonoma sunshine (*Blennosperma bakeri*) is a small, annual member of the sunflower family indigenous to California and within the state it is listed as State Endangered (SE). It is also a Federally Endangered Species (FE). The species provides a yellow display in vernal pools and annual grasslands of the Santa Rosa Plain and Sonoma areas. The CNDDDB maps Sonoma Sunshine at the Alton Lane Vernal Pool Preserve, a couple of miles to the north and east of the property (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**). The best time to view the species is in April. The CNDDDB reports that the Wilfred and Stony Point sites support a documented population of Sonoma sunshine; however, this species was not found during spring 2004 surveys by Ecosystems West's botanists (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***Burke's Goldfields***

Goldfields belong to the genus of wildflowers known as *Lasthenia*, a group of plants in the sunflower family. Burke's goldfields (*Lasthenia burkei*), are known only from vernal pools and wet meadows of the region (Lake, Mendocino, and Sonoma counties) and are known from the northern reaches of the Santa Rosa Plain, including the Alton Lane Vernal Pool Preserve discussed above.

The CNDDDB reports that the Wilfred and Stony Point sites historically supported a Burke's Goldfields population; however no plants were found during spring surveys by Ecosystems West botanists (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***Sebastopol Meadowfoam***

Meadowfoams belong to the family Limnanthaceae, a group of spring wildflowers often associated with wet meadows and the upper rim of vernal pools and swales. They are distant cousins of geraniums, and a source of natural oils. The Sebastopol meadowfoam is known only from a few localities in Sonoma County, principally in the Laguna de Santa Rosa area, and from a single known location in Napa County.

According to the CNDDDB the Sebastopol meadowfoam is found about 1½ miles from the site. This species was not observed during 2004 field surveys conducted by Ecosystems West botanists (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***Showy Indian Clover***

The showy Indian clover is a robust, hairy annual member of the pea family that is a distant cousin of alfalfa. The flowers are purple with white tips. Once thought to be extinct, the species was rediscovered in 1993 near the community of Occidental in Sonoma County. This species has not been observed in recent years.

According to the CNDDDB the Wilfred and Stony Point sites contain marginal habitat for the showy Indian clover. This species was not observed during field surveys conducted in 2004 by Ecosystems West botanists (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***Other Plant Species***

Several other Federally Endangered plant species, within Table 3.5-1 are known to exist in the region, but in very few localities. These species include: Sonoma alopecurus, white sedge, Sonoma spineflower, Vine Hill clarkia, soft bird's beak, Baker's larkspur, yellow larkspur, Pitkin Marsh lily, many-flowered navarettia, Hickman's cinquefoil, and Kenwood Marsh checkerbloom are known to the region and have been extirpated from most of the region or are of limited distribution within Sonoma County.

On the Wilfred and Stony Point sites there is marginal to unsuitable habitat for the Sonoma alopecurus, white sedge, Sonoma spineflower, Vine Hill clarkia, soft bird's beak, Baker's larkspur, yellow larkspur, Pitkin Marsh lily, many-flowered navarettia, Hickman's cinquefoil, and Kenwood Marsh checkerbloom. Rare plant surveys conducted in the spring 2004 did not detect these species (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***California Freshwater Shrimp***

The California freshwater shrimp is found in low-elevation, low gradient streams with gravelly or sandy bottoms. Riparian cover is moderate to heavy and associated with undercut banks. Exposed roots are important as they create a microhabitat where shrimp may hide or cling. The species prefers shallow pools isolated from the main water flow. Blucher Creek, located west of the site contains a population of California freshwater shrimp. The on-site Bellevue-Wilfred Channel is unsuitable habitat for California freshwater shrimp. (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2006; **Appendix J**).

#### ***Steelhead Fish***

Central California populations of steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) have been divided into Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs). Steelhead in the Central Coast ESU occur from the Russian River south to Soquel Creek and the Pajaro River including the San Francisco and San

Pablo Bays. Steelhead require well-oxygenated streams with riffles and loose, silt-free gravel substrate for spawning.

Juvenile steelhead (smolts) require a period of residency in a stream before migrating to the ocean. The length of freshwater residency may vary from one to three or more years depending on the conditions of the stream. The major downstream migration of steelhead smolt commonly occurs between the months of February through June, depending on the water year and pattern of winter-spring runoff. Fish habitat is physically reduced to a minimum during the low-flow period of July to October. In the Russian River and its tributaries, adult steelhead begin their upstream migration during the first heavy rains of November and December and continue their upstream migration into March and April.

The presence of steelhead fish in the Laguna de Santa Rosa has been reported in a recent BA of the Russian River (Entrix, 2004). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, formerly known as NOAA Fisheries) reports that steelhead migrate upstream and downstream through the Laguna de Santa Rosa as they move into Santa Rosa and Mark West creeks, joining the Laguna de Santa Rosa downstream from the Wilfred-Bellevue Channel. In addition the NMFS survey reports juvenile steelhead in Copeland Creek, which joins the Laguna de Santa Rosa upstream from the Wilfred-Bellevue Channel (Jones, 2000).

#### ***California Tiger Salamander***

The Sonoma County population of California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) is a genetically distinct population, which is listed as a Federally Endangered Species. The species is found in grassland, savanna, and oak woodland habitats often where stock ponds, natural ponds, vernal pools, and intermittent streams occur. The California tiger salamander is threatened by the loss of breeding ponds and the conversion of upland aestivation habitat for agricultural use and urban development (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006).

According to the CNDDDB and the findings from the 2004 protocol-level surveys, the California tiger salamander is known to exist on the Wilfred site and in the area. Egg sacs and larva of California tiger salamander were also found in the Primrose Avenue ditch just north of the Stony Point site. The closest known occurrence for the species is the northeastern corner of the Wilfred site. Two years of protocol-level surveys were conducted on the 66-acre northeastern portion of the Wilfred site. The survey during the first year determined that California tiger salamanders were not present. At the end of the second year's sampling period, one female California tiger salamander was found on the Wilfred site. The property owner and its consultants felt the circumstances of the find strongly indicated the possibility that the California tiger salamander was planted by an unknown party or parties attempting to prevent the site from being developed. The USFWS has taken the position that the circumstances indicate that possibility, but there is still the potential that the California tiger salamander found is a natural occurrence. The

developer requested additional surveys in subsequent years to disprove the finding; however, the USFWS declined to allow the developer to conduct additional surveys due to the potential harm to the species (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

The next closest known occurrence for the species is located near the corner of Stony Point Road and Wilfred Avenue, within 150 feet from the edge of the Stony Point site. There are also at least nine other reported findings within 1.5 miles of the site. Suitable California tiger salamander habitat occurs on all sides of the sites. Along the western portions of the property, highly suitable upland habitat for aestivating adult California tiger salamanders are provided in the form of gopher burrows. Highly suitable aquatic habitat for California tiger salamander larvae is present in the drainage ditches of the study area. The highest potential for California tiger salamander occurrence is in the irrigated pasturelands of the site. Hay and silage areas of the site also provide suitable habitat for the species. Portions of the site within 100-year floodplain are not considered potential habitat (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

### ***California Red-Legged Frog***

California red-legged frogs (CRLF) are found in a variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitats including marshes, lakes, streams, reservoirs, ponds, and ephemeral streams, including the intervening upland areas between aquatic features. The species often favors dense, overhanging vegetation that shades aquatic habitat. CRLFs have also been found in unvegetated stock ponds. California red-legged frogs can move more than a mile on land between water sources during the rainy season. Historically, California red-legged frogs were common on the Santa Rosa Plain. However, with channelization of major streams in the area since the 1960s and the introduction of many aquatic predatory species, red-legged frogs have disappeared from the Rohnert Park area.

Species expert Mark Jennings, Ph.D. of Rana Resources conducted an habitat assessment for the California red-legged frog. The assessment investigated the Stony Point and Wilfred sites north of Rohnert Park Expressway, the Bellevue-Wilfred Channel, and the Laguna de Santa Rosa just south of the Rohnert Park Expressway. The conditions of the major aquatic habitats in the study areas were as follows: Major aquatic habitats were channelized for flood control, resulting in creation of extensive warm water habitats that abounded with introduced species, including dozens of juvenile bullfrogs (*Rana castesbiana*), as well as hundreds of western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and Louisiana red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*). Smaller tributary stream channels were mostly dry at the time of the study and contained no ranid frogs (e.g., California red-legged frog, foothill yellow-legged frog, bullfrog), probably because of continual predation by raccoons in the shallow water habitats.

Based his observations and familiarity with the area since 2000, Dr. Jennings concluded that the site contains no suitable habitat for California red-legged frog. He concluded that California red-legged frogs do not inhabit the study area, and there is no chance for them to recolonize the site

from adjacent drainages in the foothills to the east of the Plain (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog***

Foothill yellow-legged frogs inhabit streams and rivers of the chaparral, foothill woodland, and forest habitats. The species is often found near water, usually in riffles or near rocks where they shelter from potential predators. Approximately 3-miles east of Rohnert Park the species is known to occur; however, there is no suitable habitat for foothill yellow-legged frogs on-site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Northwestern Pond Turtle***

According to the Huffman-Broadway Group BA, the northwestern pond turtle inhabits permanent or semi-permanent bodies of water in the region, including the Bellevue-Wilfred Canal located on-site. The turtle is both a Federal and State species of concern. The turtle needs both the aquatic habitat of the Laguna de Santa Rosa (and its tributaries, such as the Bellevue-Wilfred Canal) and nearby upland basking sites for its survival (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Raptors***

Two federal species of concern for raptors occur in the area, including the white-tailed kite and ferruginous hawk. Appropriate nesting habitat for white-tailed kites is not present on-site; however, the species likely forages on or near the project site, especially during the winter. White-tailed kites were observed on-site in 2003. Suitable foraging habitat for ferruginous hawks is found on-site although no ferruginous hawks were observed (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Western Burrowing Owl***

Burrowing owls typically reside in open grasslands, prairies, plains, and savanna habitats, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports, nesting and roosting in burrows dug by mammals. In California, burrowing owls are often found in close association with California ground squirrels. Burrowing owls spend much time on the ground or on low perches such as fence posts or dirt mounds in search of prey that consists of insects, small mammals, birds, and carrion. Often abandoned burrows are used for nesting and can be identified by the lining of feathers, pellets, debris, and grass. This species hunts day or night, while often taking cover during the warmest part of the day.

Although California ground squirrel burrows have limited on-site distribution, suitable habitat for the burrowing owls does exist. In 2004 a burrowing owl was observed on-site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo***

The western yellow-billed cuckoo is a Federal Candidate for listing. The species occupies riparian forest, typically along the broad, lower flood bottoms of larger river systems. Preferred nesting habitats are riparian corridors of willow mixed with cottonwoods, and an understory of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape. The western yellow-billed cuckoo once nested in a riparian area of the Laguna de Santa Rosa, about 5 miles southeast of Sebastopol, however suitable riparian habitat is not present on the Wilfred and Stony Point sites (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Loggerhead Shrike***

The loggerhead shrike is a common resident or winter visitor for lowlands and foothills throughout California. This species prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. They are a year-round resident and breed from March to August. Nest sites are usually well concealed and can be up to 50 feet above ground. Perches are used to hunt insects, reptiles, and amphibians, although they will hunt small mammals and birds. A unique characteristic of the shrike's hunting technique is to skewer the prey on a sharp object. The shrike then either feeds or uses this method to cache prey.

Suitable habitat for loggerhead shrike occurs in grassland habitats of the Wilfred and Stony Point sites. The species was observed in 2003 (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***Tri-colored Blackbirds***

A relative of the red-winged blackbird, tri-colored blackbirds breed and forage from central and southern Oregon south through interior California, and along the coast from central California south to northwestern Baja California. The species nests in large stands of cattails (*Typha* spp.) or tules (*Scirpus* spp.). Nesting colonies are usually located near flowing water or ponds.

No nesting colonies occur at the site; however, winter foraging by individuals is possible (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006; **Appendix J**).

***LAKEVILLE SITE***

The Huffman-Broadway study (2007) reported several raptor nest sites, sightings of bird species of special concern, and potential habitat for several Threatened and Endangered species. Potential habitat for Threatened and Endangered species of the site included host plants for Myrtle's silverspot and Callippe silverspot butterflies, and California red-legged frog breeding ponds (**Table 3.5-2**). The property contains numerous jurisdictional waters including Section 10 Waters, tidal waters, coastal salt marshes, vernal pools, palustrine emergent wetland, seasonal channels, and stock ponds (**Figure 3.5-7; Appendix K; Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007**).

**TABLE 3.5-2**  
**TARGET SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LIST – LAKEVILLE SITE**

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<b>PLANTS</b>				
<i>Alopecurus aequalis</i> var. <i>sonomensis</i> <b>Sonoma alopecurus</b>	FE	Known from fewer than five native occurrences in Marin and Sonoma counties, California. Elevation 5 to 210 m.	Found in freshwater marshes and swamps, and riparian scrub.	May-July
<i>Blennosperma bakeri</i> <b>Sonoma sunshine</b>	FE	Known only from the Laguna de Santa Rosa and Sonoma areas of Sonoma County, California. Elevation 10 to 110 m.	Vernal pools, mesic valley and foothill grassland.	March - May
<i>Castilleja affinis</i> ssp. <i>neglecta</i> <b>Tiburon Indian paintbrush</b>	FE	Known from six occurrences in Marin, Napa, and Santa Clara counties, California. Elevation 60 to 400 m.	Found in valley and foothill grasslands on serpentine soils.	April-June
<i>Castilleja ambigua</i> ssp. <i>ambigua</i> <b>Salt marsh owl's clover</b>	FLC	Found in the North Coast ranges of California north to British Columbia. Elevation <100 m.	Found in coastal bluff and grassland habitats.	April-August
<i>Chorizanthe valida</i> <b>Sonoma spineflower</b>	FE	Known from a single locality at Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, California. Elevation 10 to 305 m.	Found in sandy coastal prairie.	June-August
<i>Cordylanthus mollis</i> ssp. <i>mollis</i> <b>Soft bird's-beak</b>	FE	Contra Costa, Napa, and Solano counties, California (extirpated from Marin, Sacramento, and Sonoma counties). Elevation 0 to 3 m.	Found in coastal marshes and swamps.	July-November
<i>Delphinium luteum</i> <b>Yellow larkspur</b>	FE	Marin and Sonoma counties, California. Elevation 0 to 100 m.	Found in chaparral, coastal prairie, and rocky coastal scrub.	March-May
<i>Hesperolinon congestum</i> <b>Marin western flax</b>	FT	Known from fewer than 20 occurrences in Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties, California. Elevation 50 to 800 m.	Found in chaparral and valley and foothill grasslands on serpentine soils.	April-July
<i>Lasthenia burkei</i> <b>Burke's goldfields</b>	FE	Southern Mendocino County, southern Lake County, and northeastern Sonoma County, California. Elevation 15 to 600 m.	Vernal pools, moist meadows.	April-June
<i>Limnanthes vinculans</i> <b>Sebastopol meadowfoam</b>	FE	Sonoma County, California (and one occurrence in Napa County). Elevation 15 to 305 m.	Vernal pools, vernal moist sites in meadows, valley and foothill grassland.	April-May
<i>Spartina foliosa</i> <b>Pacific cordgrass</b>	FLC	Coastal California south to Mexico. Elevation <10 m.	Salt marshes, mudflats, and shorelines.	July-November
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i> <b>Showy Indian clover</b>	FE	Extinct over much of its natural range from Santa Clara County north to Mendocino County, California. Rediscovered near Occidental in Sonoma County in 1993. Elevation 5 to 415 m.	Occurs in coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grassland, sometimes on serpentinite.	April-June
<b>ANIMALS</b>				
<b>Crustaceans</b>				
<i>Syncaris pacifica</i> <b>California freshwater shrimp</b>	FE	Endemic to Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.	Found in low gradient, perennial coastal streams. Streams are typically 1-3 feet deep, with exposed live roots along undercut banks, also with overhanging woody debris or stream vegetation.	All year

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<b>Insects and Spiders</b>				
<i>Adela oplerella</i> <b>Opler's longhorn moth</b>	FSC	Marin, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma counties, California.	Dependent on a host plant found typically in serpentine grasslands, cream cups ( <i>Platystemon californicus</i> ).	Insufficient data
<i>Calicina diminua</i> <b>Marin blind harvestman</b>	FSC	Marin County, California.	Only found in serpentine rock formations on Ring Mountain Preserve.	Insufficient data
<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i> <b>Sonoma Arctic skipper</b>	FSC	Sonoma County, California.	Glades and openings in heavily forested woods, moist meadows, and streamsides. Requires host plant, purple reedgrass ( <i>Calamagrostis purpurascens</i> ).	May-July
<i>Hydrochara rickseckeri</i> <b>Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle</b>	FSC	Alameda, Marin, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties ringing San Francisco Bay, California.	Associated with vernal pools and ponds in the San Francisco Bay region and the westernmost Sacramento Valley.	Insufficient data
<i>Speyeria callippe callippe</i> <b>Callippe silverspot butterfly</b>	FE	Alameda, Napa, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties, California.	Found in native grassland and adjacent habitats. Females lay their eggs on the dry remains of the larval food plant, Johnny jump-up ( <i>Viola pedunculata</i> ), or on the surrounding debris.	May-July
<i>Speyeria zerene myrtleae</i> <b>Myrtle's silverspot</b>	FE	Marin and Sonoma counties, California (extirpated from San Mateo County)	Found in coastal dune and prairie habitat. Females lay their eggs in the debris and dried stems of violets (typically <i>Viola adunca</i> ).	June-September
<b>Fish</b>				
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i> <b>Green sturgeon</b>	FC	Coastal areas of North Pacific from Gulf of Alaska to southern California and Baja California, Mexico; spawns only in the Sacramento and Klamath river systems in California and the Rogue River in Oregon.	Found in marine waters, estuaries, lower reaches of large rivers, and salt or brackish water off river mouths.	February-July
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> <b>Tidewater goby</b>	FE	Coast of California.	Found in brackish shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches where the water is fairly still but not stagnant.	All year
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> <b>Delta smelt</b>	FT	Sacramento and San Joaquin River deltas.	Euryhaline in open waters of bays, tidal rivers, channels, and sloughs.	All year
<i>Lampetra ayresi</i> <b>River lamprey</b>	FSC	Western half of North America, including Alaska, mainland British Columbia, and Vancouver island.	Lower Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and Russian River. May also occur in coastal streams north of San Francisco Bay.	Insufficient data
<i>Lampetra tridentata</i> <b>Pacific lamprey</b>	FSC	Coasts of Asia and North America. In North America the species is distributed from Alaska to Baja California, Mexico.	Spawn in rivers in the Central Valley, in gravely riffles with swift currents.	July-October
<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> <b>Coho salmon - Central California ESU</b>	FT	Humboldt County south to Santa Cruz County, California.	Found in coastal streams and rivers suitable for spawning and rearing.	August-February
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> <b>Steelhead - Central California coast ESA</b>	FT	Federal listing includes all runs in coastal basins from the Russian River, south to Soquel Creek including San Francisco and San Pablo bays.	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.	December-July

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> <b>Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon</b>	FC	Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries.	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.	October-March
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> <b>Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon</b>	FT	Sacramento River and its tributaries.	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.	February-June
<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i> <b>Sacramento splittail</b>	FSC	Lakes and rivers of the Central Valley of California although presently limited to the Delta and Suisun Bay.	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and associated marshes. Requires flooded vegetation for spawning and juvenile foraging habitat.	All year
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i> <b>Longfin smelt</b>	FSC	Pacific coast of North America from the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary and Monterey Bay, California, north to Prince William Sound, Alaska.	Found in all major bays and estuaries from San Francisco Bay northward. Also known from portions of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.	February-April (period of time found in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta for spawning)
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> <b>California tiger salamander</b>	FT	Western California from Sonoma County in the north to Santa Barbara County in the south.	Breeds in vernal pools and ponds of grassland and open woodland of low hills and valleys. Will utilize burrows for refuge.	November-February (adults) March 15-May15 (larvae)
<i>Rana aurora aurora</i> <b>Northern red-legged frog</b>	FSC	West of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada ranges from Butte and Mendocino counties, northward.	Found in lowlands and foothills of northern coast range in areas with late-season sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent vegetation.	May-November
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> <b>California red-legged frog</b>	FT	Butte and Mendocino County, California southward to Baja California, Mexico west of the Sierra Nevada, Peninsular Mountain axis.	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent or late-season sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent vegetation.	May-November
<i>Spea (= Scaphiopus) hammondii</i> <b>Western spadefoot toad</b>	FSC	Alameda, Butte, Calaveras, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, Ventura and Yolo counties.	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley and foothill woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg laying.	November-March
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i> <b>Northwestern pond turtle</b>	FSC	Western Washington south to Baja California, Mexico west of the Cascade, Sierra Nevada, and Peninsular Mountain axis.	Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Requires basking sites and suitable upland habitat for egg laying.	All year
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum frontale</i> <b>California horned lizard</b>	FSC	California and Baja California, Mexico.	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	April-October
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> <b>Tricolored blackbird</b>	FSC	California and Baja California, Mexico.	Nests in dense thickets of cattails, tules, willow, blackberry, wild rose, and other tall herbs near fresh water.	April-July

3.0 Description of Affected Environment

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<i>Amphispiza belli belli</i> <b>Bell's sage sparrow</b>	FSC	Foothills of the Coast Ranges from northern California to northwestern Baja California and along the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada in California.	Chaparral dominated by chamise and/or California sagebrush.	Consult agency
<i>Athene cucularia hypugea</i> <b>Western burrowing owl</b>	FSC	Western United States and Mexico.	Uses elevated rodent or other burrow for roosting and nesting. Frequents open grasslands and shrub-lands.	Dec. 1-Jan.31 & April 15-July15
<i>Buteo regalis</i> (wintering) <b>Ferruginous hawk</b>	FSC	Western United States and southern Saskatchewan, Canada, south to Mexico.	Found in dense coast scrub.	All year
<i>Calidris canutus</i> <b>Red knot</b>	FSC	Coastal regions of the world.	Found along the coast on sandy beaches.	November-March
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i> <b>Vaux's swift</b>	FSC	Southeastern Alaska, southern British Columbia, northern Idaho, and western Montana south to central California; south to Mexico and South America.	Nests in large, hollow trees and snags in coniferous forest habitats. Often nests in flocks.	May-August
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> <b>Western snowy plover</b>	FT	Pacific coast from Washington south to San Francisco Bay and Mexico; inland to the Great Salt Lake, Utah and elsewhere.	Nests, feeds, and takes cover on sandy or gravelly beaches along the coast, on estuarine salt ponds, alkali lakes, and at the Salton Sea.	All year
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> <b>Western yellow-billed cuckoo</b>	FC	Isolated pockets in the San Francisco Bay region, Mojave Desert, and San Diego region of California; south to Mexico.	Found in lowland riparian habitats. Nest and seek cover in densely foliated, deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows.	June-September
<i>Cypseloides niger</i> <b>Black swift</b>	FSC	Southeastern Alaska, British Columbia, and southwestern Alberta south through the Pacific states to southern California; northwestern Montana, Colorado, Utah, northern New Mexico; south to the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, and South America.	Found in mountainous areas and coastal bluffs. Nest in moist crevices and caves on sea cliffs above surf, or on cliffs behind, or adjacent to, waterfall in deep canyon.	April-October
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> <b>White-tailed kite</b>	FSC	Western Oregon and California; southern Texas, south to Mexico.	Nests in dense oak, willow, or other tree stands near open grasslands meadows, farmlands, and emergent wetlands.	February-September
<i>Empidonax traillii brewsteri</i> <b>Little willow flycatcher</b>	FSC	Northwestern United States.	Inhabits wet meadow and riparian montane habitats.	May-August
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> <b>American peregrine falcon</b>	FD	North America.	Forages in marshes and grasslands. Nesting habitat includes high, protected cliffs and ledges, also utilizes human-made structures.	All year
<i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i> <b>Salt marsh common yellowthroat</b>	FSC	San Francisco Bay area, ranging from Tomales Bay to Carquinez Strait to San Jose.	Found in freshwater and brackish marshes. Nests over water, in emergent aquatic vegetation, dense shrubs, or other dense growth.	All year
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> <b>Bald eagle</b>	FT	North America.	Ocean shorelines, lake margins, and river courses for both nesting and wintering habitat.	All year
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> <b>Loggerhead shrike</b>	FSC	United States and western Canada.	Found in a variety of habitats with open areas, available perches, and dense shrubs for nesting.	March-August

3.0 Description of Affected Environment

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> <b>Black rail</b>	FSC	San Francisco Bay area south to Baja California, Mexico and east to Arizona.	Salt marsh bordering large bays with heavy pickleweed or emergent growth.	All year
<i>Limosa fedoa</i> <b>Marbled godwit</b>	FSC	North America.	Found in estuarine habitats in emergent wetlands above high water.	August-May
<i>Melanerpes lewis</i> <b>Lewis' woodpecker</b>	FSC	Western United States.	Open oak savannahs, broken deciduous, and coniferous habitats. Requires open habitats with scattered trees and snags with cavities.	May-July
<i>Melospiza melodia samuelis</i> <b>San Pablo song sparrow</b>	FSC	California.	Inhabit emergent wetlands along San Francisco Bay. Use dense vegetation for cover and nesting.	All year
<i>Numenius americanus</i> <b>Long-billed curlew</b>	FSC	North and Central America.	Breeds in upland shortgrass prairies and wet meadows in northeastern California.	April-September
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i> <b>California brown pelican</b>	FE	Western North America.	Found in estuarine, marine sub-tidal, and marine pelagic waters along the California coast. May also use mudflats and beaches for roosting.	June-March
<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i> <b>California clapper rail</b>	FE	San Francisco Bay region of California.	Found in San Francisco Bay Area. Salt marsh transversed by tidal sloughs, associated with abundant growth of pickleweed.	All year
<i>Riparia riparia</i> <b>Bank swallow</b>	FSC	North America.	Colonial nester; requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured soils near streams, rivers, and lakes to excavate nest holes.	March-August
<i>Rynchops niger</i> <b>Black skimmer</b>	FSC	California, Texas, and the eastern seaboard south to Mexico and South America.	Roosts and nests on sandy beaches and gravel bars. Known from a few occurrences in the San Francisco Bay Area.	April-October
<i>Selasphorus rufus</i> <b>Rufous hummingbird</b>	FSC	Western North America and Mexico.	Found in a wide variety of habitats that provide nectar-producing flowers; uses valley foothill hardwood, valley foothill hardwood-conifer, riparian, and various chaparral habitats in both northward and southward migration; montane riparian, aspen, and high mountain meadows (to tree-line and above) used in southward migration.	April-July
<i>Selasphorus sasin</i> <b>Allen's hummingbird</b>	FSC	Western North America and Mexico.	Breeders are most common in coastal scrub, valley foothill hardwood, and valley foothill riparian habitats, but also are common in closed-cone pine-cypress, urban, and redwood habitats. Occurs in a variety of woodland and scrub habitats as a migrant.	February-August
<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> <b>California least tern</b>	FE	Western North America and Mexico.	Found along marine and estuarine shores. Nest on barren to sparsely vegetated sites near water, usually on sandy or gravelly substrate.	May-October
<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> <b>Northern spotted owl</b>	FT	Western North America.	In northern California, resides in dense, old growth, multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood, and Douglas-fir habitats.	All year

SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME	FEDERAL STATUS	DISTRIBUTION	HABITAT REQUIREMENTS	PERIOD OF IDENTIFICATION
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Aplodontia rufa phaea</i> <b>Point Reyes mountain beaver</b>	FSC	Marin County, California.	Frequent open and intermediate-canopy coverage with a dense understory near water. Deep, friable soils are required for burrowing, along with a cool, moist microclimate.	All year
<i>Corynorhinus (Placates) townsendii townsendii</i> <b>Pacific western big-eared bat</b>	FSC	North America.	Humid coastal regions of northern and central California. Roost in limestone caves, lava tubes, mines, and buildings.	All year
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> <b>Greater western mastiff bat</b>	FSC	California and Arizona south to Mexico and Cuba, then discontinuously distributed to South America.	Occurs in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats. Crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels are required for roosting and nesting.	All year
<i>Myotis evotis</i> <b>Long-eared myotis bat</b>	FSC	Western North America and Mexico.	Found in brush, woodland, and forest habitats. Nursery colonies in buildings, crevices, spaces under bark, and snags; caves are used primarily as night roosts.	April-September
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i> <b>Fringed myotis bat</b>	FSC	Western North America.	Found in a wide variety of habitats. Use caves, mines, buildings, and crevices for maternity colonies and roosts.	April-September
<i>Myotis volans</i> <b>Long-legged myotis bat</b>	FSC	Western North America.	Primarily in woodland and forest habitats above 4000 feet. Trees are important day roosts; uses caves and mines for night roosts.	April-October
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> <b>Yuma myotis bat</b>	FSC	Western North America, Texas, and Mexico.	Inhabits open forests and woodlands. Distribution is closely tied to bodies of water. Maternity colonies occur in caves, mines, buildings, or crevices.	April-October
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i> <b>Salt marsh harvest mouse</b>	FE	San Francisco Bay region of California.	Salt marsh of San Francisco Bay and tributaries. Pickleweed is the primary habitat.	All year
<i>Sorex ornatus sinuosus</i> <b>Suisun shrew</b>	FSC	San Pablo and Suisun bays of California.	Tidal marshes of the northern shores of San Pablo and Suisun Bays. Requires dense low-lying cover and driftwood or other litter above the mean high tide line for nesting and foraging.	All year
<i>Zapus trinotatus orarius</i> <b>Point Reyes jumping mouse</b>	FSC	Marin County, California.	Found in wet coastal forests of coast redwood and Douglas fir.	March-November

NOTES:

**FEDERAL STATUS CODES: (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service)**

- FC = Federal Candidate for Listing
- FD = Federal Delisted
- FE = Listed as Endangered by the Federal Government
- FLC = Federal species of local concern
- FSC = Federal species of concern
- FT = Listed as Threatened by the Federal Government

SOURCES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 2004; CDFG 2004a, b, c, d; CNDDDB, 2004; CNPS Electronic Inventory, 2003; **Appendix I**; Huffman-Broadway Group, 2007; **Appendix K**; Analytical Environmental Services, 2004.



The final target special status species list contains those species that have suitable on-site habitat. Special status species were also included in the list if the Lakeville site was located within the species' known range and distribution. The status, biology, regional distribution, and site-specific discussion of the target species is discussed below.

***Sonoma Alopecurus***

Considered by some botanists to be synonymous with the short-awn foxtail grass, the Sonoma alopecurus is known from fewer than five native occurrences. However, the distinctness of this subspecies is clouded by the existence of morphologically similar races indigenous to the Sierra Nevada region.

Marginal to unsuitable habitat exists on the Lakeville site for the Sonoma alopecurus. Rare plant surveys conducted in 2003 did not detect any of these species (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Sonoma Sunshine***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above. In 1990, Sonoma sunshine plants were found about 5 miles from the site. The species was also recorded in the CNDDDB search of the surrounding quadrangles. Plant surveys conducted in May and June of 2003 were too late to detect this early-blooming species during its flowering period (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**). If the Lakeville site were pursued for development of the facility, rare plant surveys would be conducted during March or April.

***Indian Paintbrush and Owl's Clover***

The Tiburon Indian paintbrush is a yellowish to pinkish-flowered relative of snapdragons indigenous to serpentine slopes in chaparral at the southern end of the North Coast Ranges, and northern portions of the San Francisco Bay region. Salt marsh owl's clover, also known as Johnny-nip has pale yellow to rose-purple flowers. It is found on coastal bluffs and grassland of the north and central ranges. The species is in need of study as it consists of many local ecological forms (Hickman, 1993).

A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Tiburon Indian paintbrush or salt marsh owl's clover occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007), **Appendix K**.

***Sonoma Spineflower***

Related to buckwheat, the Sonoma spineflower is known from only a single locality at the Point Reyes National Seashore. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Sonoma spineflower occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Soft Bird's Beak***

Soft bird's beak is a hemiparasitic herb indigenous to salt marsh and brackish marsh in the San Francisco Bay Region. The species is found primarily in the upper marsh, usually at or above the limits of the tidal prism. In 1986, the species was found in the salt marsh near Bentley Wharf.

It is unlikely that soft bird's beak plants occur on the property (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Yellow Larkspur***

Yellow or golden larkspurs are showy-flowered members of the buttercup family. Unlike buttercups, larkspur flowers are bilaterally symmetrical. A biological assessment of the property did not report the likelihood of yellow larkspur occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Marin Western Flax***

Marin western flax is a native wildflower related to the commercially important flax plant. However, unlike the red, white, yellow, orange, or blue flowers of cultivated and native flax species, the Marin western flax has rose to pink flowers, and it favors serpentine outcrops. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Marin western flax occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Burke's Goldfields***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Stony Point site. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Burke's goldfields occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Sebastopol Meadowfoam***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Stony Point site. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Sebastopol meadowfoam occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Showy Indian Clover***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Stony Point site. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of showy Indian clover occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***California Freshwater Shrimp***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Stony Point site. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of California freshwater shrimp occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Insects and Spiders***

Several insects and a spider are known to occur in the region. The two federally endangered butterflies are discussed separately in the paragraph following this discussion. The federally listed insects include the Opler's longhorn moth, the Sonoma Arctic skipper, and Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle. The federally listed spider is the Marin blind harvestman. Of these species the only one that could occur on the site is Opler's longhorn moth (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

Opler's longhorn moth is known almost exclusively from serpentine grasslands of the region where its larvae feed on the native wildflower known as cream cups (*Platystemon californicus*). The moth is known from a site about 1-mile north of the Lakeville site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Butterflies***

Two federally endangered silverspot butterflies, Myrtle's silverspot and the Callippe silverspot occur in the area. Both silverspot butterflies are known from grasslands where their larvae feed on violets (*Viola* spp.). Myrtle's silverspot has been the subject of recent taxonomic studies and conclusions, which are at variance with information available from the USFWS (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

The closest known populations of Myrtle's silverspot and the Callippe silverspot to the Lakeville site are about a half-mile north of the Lakeville site. Potential habitat for both species occurs in the hills above the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Fish***

Several species of federally listed fish occur in the region, principally due to the proximity of the site to San Pablo Bay and the Petaluma River. These include green sturgeon, tidewater goby, Delta smelt, river lamprey, Pacific lamprey, Coho salmon, steelhead, Chinook salmon, Sacramento splittail, and long-fin smelt.

A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of green sturgeon, tidewater goby, Delta smelt, river lamprey, Pacific lamprey, Coho salmon, steelhead, Chinook salmon, Sacramento splittail, and long-fin smelt occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***California Tiger Salamander***

A discussion of the biology of this species appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Stony Point site. Potential aestivation habitat is limited on the site due to the scarcity of suitable burrows. In addition, there are no breeding ponds near the few burrows, which exist on the property (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Red-legged Frogs***

Both California red-legged and northern red-legged frogs occur in the region; however, the latter species is generally found northward from Mendocino and Lake Counties, and has subtle differences from California red-legged frogs, these differences include less distinct dorsal markings, smoother skin, and longer limbs. A discussion of the biology of California red-legged frogs appears above, under the discussion of special status species for the Wilfred and Stony Point site.

The north section of the Lakeville site has excellent habitat characteristics for the California red-legged frog. Wetland areas with inundation sufficient to support breeding populations are present in the northern and western portions of the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Western Spadefoot Toad***

The western spadefoot toad is primarily a species of lowland toad, but also ranges into the foothills and mountains. It prefers sandy or gravelly soils of grasslands, open chaparral, or pine and oak woodlands. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of western spadefoot toad occurring on the Lakeville site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Turtles and Lizards***

Western pond turtles and California horned lizards are known to occur in the region. Western pond turtles occupy ponds or streams where upland basking sites exist, while California horned lizards frequent a variety of upland habitats, principally of the lowlands. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Western pond turtles and California horned lizards occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Western Burrowing Owl***

Burrowing owls typically reside in open grasslands, prairies, plains, and savanna habitats, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation or airports, nesting and roosting in burrows dug by mammals. In California, burrowing owls are often found in close association with California ground squirrels. They spend much time on the ground or on low perches such as fence posts or dirt mounds in search of prey that consists of insects, small mammals, birds, and carrion often, abandoned burrows are used for nesting. This species hunts day or night, while often taking cover during the warmest part of the day. Habitat for western burrowing owl is present on-site and individuals are known to occur in the region (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Loggerhead Shrike***

The loggerhead shrike is a common resident and winter visitor in lowlands and foothills throughout California. This species prefers open habitats with scattered shrubs, trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches. They are a year-round resident and breed from March to August. Nest sites are usually well concealed and can be up to 50-feet above ground. Perches are used to hunt insects, reptiles, and amphibians, although they will hunt small mammals and birds. A unique characteristic of the shrike's hunting technique is to skewer the prey on a sharp object. The shrike then either feeds or uses this method to cache prey.

Habitat for loggerhead shrike is present on the site and they are known to occur in the region. A presumed nesting pair was observed in one of the nearby riparian canyons (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Bald Eagle***

In the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the USFWS reclassified under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the bald eagle from endangered to threatened in the lower 48 states, excluding Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington where it is currently listed as threatened. In the mid-1970's the USFWS established five recovery programs based on geographical distribution of the species, the Lakeville site being located in the Pacific Recovery Region. Because recovery goals were met, the bald eagle was federally reclassified to the threatened status in California. In the Pacific Recovery Region, habitat conservation efforts, including laws and management practices at Federal, state and community levels have helped facilitate increases in the bald eagle population. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of bald eagle occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

### ***Shore and Salt Marsh Birds***

Several shorebirds have the potential or are known to occur in the region although none have been found on the site. These include red knots, western snowy plovers, salt marsh common yellowthroats, black rails, California clapper rails, California brown pelicans, and California least terns. However, California clapper rails are known to occur on Lower Tubbs Island and in the adjacent marshes south of State Highway 37 located south of the site. Potentially suitable habitat for California black rail is present in the tidal marshes to the south of the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of red knots, western snowy plovers, salt marsh common yellowthroats, black rails, California clapper rails, California brown pelicans, and California least terns occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Bird Species of Federal Concern***

There are numerous bird species of Federal concern known from the region. These include tri-colored blackbird, Bell's sage sparrow, Vaux's swift, black swift, white-tailed kite, ferruginous hawk, marbled godwit, San Pablo song sparrow, Rufous hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, Lewis' woodpecker, bank swallow, and black skimmer.

A BA of the property did not report tri-colored blackbirds, Bell's sage sparrows, Vaux's swifts, black swifts, white-tailed kites, ferruginous hawks, marbled godwits, San Pablo song sparrows, Rufous hummingbirds, Allen's hummingbirds, Lewis' woodpeckers, bank swallows, and black skimmers occurring on the site. A documented tricolored blackbird nesting colony known from the area was not active during the 2003 surveys. Appropriate nesting habitat for white-tailed kites is not present on the site, although the species may forage in the vicinity during the winter. Tricolored blackbirds and ferruginous hawks may also forage on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Bat Species of Federal Concern***

Several bat species of Federal concern occur in the region including Pacific western big-eared bat, greater western mastiff bat, long-eared myotis bat, fringed myotis bat, and long-legged myotis bat. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of Pacific western big-eared bats, greater western mastiff bats, long-eared myotis bats, fringed myotis bats, and long-legged myotis bats occurring on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse***

The salt marsh harvest mouse is only found in saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. The nearest known population is on San Pablo Bay at Lower Tubbs Island and in adjacent marshes. A BA of the property did not report the likelihood of salt marsh harvest mouse occurring on-site; however, potential habitat does exist south of State Highway 37 (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

***Other Mammal Species of Federal Concern***

The Suisun shrew and Point Reyes jumping mouse are known from the region. The Suisun shrew occurs in the tidal marshes along San Pablo and Suisun bays, and the species is known from the Sears Point area. The Point Reyes jumping mouse is found elsewhere in the region and is not likely to occur on the site (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc. 2007; **Appendix K**).

**3.5.5 WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

The term "Waters of the United States" is defined as:

- All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- All interstate waters including interstate wetlands; or
- All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use or degradation of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters.

“Wetlands” are defined as:

Waters of the U.S. that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands that meet these criteria during only a portion of the growing season are classified as seasonal wetlands.

#### ***WILFRED SITE***

A USACE verified delineation identified 18.44-acres of “waters of the U.S.” on the 253-acre Wilfred site (The Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2004a) (**Appendix L**). These features are subject to USACE jurisdiction under the CWA and any discharge of dredged or fill material within the “waters of the U.S.” would require a CWA, Section 404 permit. Anticipated direct effects to jurisdictional “waters of the U.S.” total 2.07 acres with the development of Option 2 and 2.37 acres with the development of Option 3 both listed under Section 2.2.7, Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Options (**Figure 28** and **Figure 29** of **Appendix J**; **Table 2-2**). Under Option 2, a 78-acre sprayfield area will be installed with a minimum of 250-foot setback from all wetlands. Option 3 includes an 11.4-acre sprayfield with a 50-foot setback from all wetlands on-site.

#### ***STONY POINT SITE***

A “waters of the U.S.” delineation map is presented as **Figure 3.5-7**. The waters of the U.S. map encompass all the parcels, approximately 460 acres, within the Wilfred and Stony Point sites. A USACE verified delineation identified more than 61.77 acres of “waters of the U.S.” on the Stony Point site (The Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2006) (**Appendix L**). These features are subject to USACE jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act and any discharge of dredged or fill material within the “waters of the U.S.” would require a Clean Water Act, Section 404 permit.

Figure 3.5-7, Waters of the U.S. – Wilfred and Stony Point sites

### **LAKEVILLE SITE**

An unverified delineation of “waters of the U.S.” at the Lakeville site identified areas that are potentially subject to USACE regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including marshes and streams totaling approximately 125 acres (**Figure 3.5-8**) (Huffman-Broadway Group, Inc., 2007; **Appendix L**).

### **3.5.6 LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA**

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is located at the south end of the Wilfred and Stony Point sites. It is a broad, shallow, excavated channel more than 300 feet wide and less than 40 feet deep (see Section 3.3). As observed on June 9, 2004 the flow was negligible and the water depth approximately 4 feet. According to a recent BA, the Laguna de Santa Rosa is seasonally eutrophic (Entrix, 2004). A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for ammonia and dissolved oxygen (DO) was proposed in 1995 (Morris, 1995), and was established by the RWQCB and USEPA (for total nitrogen and ammonia) in 2004 (Santa Rosa, 2004e). However, the nutrient-rich bottom deposits in the Laguna de Santa Rosa continue to decrease DO (Entrix, 2004).

Public concern for the protection and management of biological resources of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and adjacent Santa Rosa Plain has resulted in several planning efforts culminating with the establishment of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protection Plan. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Protection Plan is a partnership of the Sonoma Land Trust and the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, together with the California State Coastal Conservancy (Sonoma Land Trust and Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, 2003). The Wilfred and Stony Point sites are within the core study area of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protection Plan (**Figure 3.5-9**).

The stakeholders in the region have a stated interest in preserving wetlands, including seasonal wetlands, perennial wetlands and vernal pools, valley oak savannah, riparian woodlands, and special status species including Sonoma sunshine, Burke’s goldfields, and Sebastopol meadowfoam. This led to the formulation of the 1995 Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Ecosystem Preservation Plan and Coordinated Resource Management Plan; the Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District’s Acquisition Plan 2000; creation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa National Wildlife Refuge; and the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation.

### **SANTA ROSA PLAIN VERNAL POOL ECOSYSTEM PRESERVATION PLAN**

The 1995 Santa Rosa Plain Vernal Pool Ecosystem Preservation Plan was a multi-agency project undertaken in response to the USACE suspension of nationwide permit availability on the Santa Rosa Plain. The vernal pool plan outlined a process to preserve high-quality vernal pool habitat and to develop low-quality vernal pool areas. The plan was not adopted.

Figure 3.5-8, Summary of Biological Resources – Lakeville site and Vicinity

Figure 3.5-9, Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan Study Area

***COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN***

The planners of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation brought together a task force of private organizations and public agencies. The job of the task force was to develop management guidelines within a 21,000-acre core planning area (**Figure 3.5-9**).

***SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT'S ACQUISITION PLAN 2000***

In 2000 the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD) adopted a plan to purchase land and easements. The Laguna de Santa Rosa was determined by SCAPOSD to represent a priority riparian and wetland area. In addition, the SCAPOSD recognized the Santa Rosa Plain as a priority greenbelt area.

**3.5.7 SONOMA BAY LANDS**

The Lakeview site is located within the Sonoma Baylands region (see **Section 3.5.1**). The SCAPOSD has recently announced plans to restore those portions of the site belonging to the Sonoma Baylands.