

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

Intra-Service Section 7 Biological Evaluation Form

I. Project Location:

A. County where the project will occur: Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba, and Tulare counties, California.

B. Brief description of plan area (include map):



Figure 1-1
Study Area and Regions



II. Species/Critical Habitat:

A. Identify the species of concern that are or may be present in the action area and whether federally designated or proposed critical habitat is present within the project area. (Range, Status, Impact, Data)

Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species that May Occur within the Action Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Species or Habitat within Action Area (Yes/No)	Species Potentially Affected by Covered Activities? (Yes/No)	Critical Habitat Present Within Action Area (Yes/No)
Green sturgeon, SDPS	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	T	Y	N	N
Lange's metalmark butterfly	<i>Apodemia mormo langei</i>	E	N	N	N
Guadalupe fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>	T	N	N	N
Sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	E	N	N	N
Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	E	N	N	N
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	E	N	N	N
Arroyo toad	<i>Bufo californicus</i>	E	Y	N	Y
Grey wolf	<i>Canus lupis</i>	E	Y	N	N
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	E	N	N	N
Western snowy plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	T	N	N	Y
Shortnose sucker	<i>Chasmistes brevirostris</i>	E	N	N	N
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T	N	N	N
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Candidate	Y	N	N
Lost river sucker	<i>Deltistes luxatus</i>	E	N	N	N
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	E	N	N	N

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Species or Habitat within Action Area (Yes/No)	Species Potentially Affected by Covered Activities? (Yes/No)	Critical Habitat Present Within Action Area (Yes/No)
Morro Bay kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys heermanni morroensis</i>	E	Y	N	Y
Fresno kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys nitratoides exilis</i>	E	N	N	N
Tipton kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i>	E	N	N	N
Delta green ground beetle	<i>Elaphrus viridis</i>	T	N	N	N
Southwestern willow flycatcher (CA)	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E	Y	N	Y
Southern sea otter	<i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	T	N	N	N
Northern Pacific Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	E	N	N	N
Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	E	Y	N	Y
El Segunod blue butterfly	<i>Euphilotes battoides allyni</i>	E	N	N	N
Bay checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>	T	N	N	N
Kern primrose sphinx moth	<i>Euproserpinus euterpe</i>	T	Y	N	N
Unarmored threespine stickleback	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i>	E	N	N	N
Desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	T	Y	N	N
California wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Candidate	N	N	N
North American Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Candidate	Y	N	N
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	E	Y	N	Y
Black abalone	<i>Haliotis cracherodii</i>	E	N	N	N
White abalone	<i>Haliotis sorenseni</i>	E	N	N	N

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Delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	T	Y	N	Y
Olive ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	T/E	N	N	N
Lotis blue butterfly	<i>Lycaeides argyrognomon lotis</i>	E	Y	Y	N
Pacific fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	E	Y	N	N
Alameda whipsnake	<i>Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus</i>	T	N	N	N
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	E	N	N	N
Riparian (San Joaquin Valley) woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i>	E	N	N	N
Riparian woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes riparia</i>	E	N	N	N
Southern resident killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	E	N	N	N
Little Kern golden trout	<i>Oncorhynchus aguabonita whitei</i>	T	N	N	N
Lahontan cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i>	T	N	N	N
Paiute cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii seleniris</i>	T	N	N	N
Central California Coast Coho salmon, ESU	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	E	N	N	N
Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho salmon, ESU	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	T	N	N	N
Central California Coast steelhead, DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	N	N	N
Northern California steelhead, DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	N	N	N

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Southern California steelhead, DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	E	N	N	Y
Central Valley steelhead, DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	N	N	N
South-Central California Coast steelhead, DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	T	N	N	N
California Coast Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T	N	N	N
Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T	N	N	N
Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	E	N	N	N
Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis sierrae</i>	E	N	N	N
Shasta crayfish	<i>Pacifastacus fortis</i>	E	Y	N	N
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	E	Y	N	N
Short-tailed albatross	<i>Phoebastria albatrus</i>	E	N	N	N
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	E	N	N	N
Light-footed Ridgway rail	<i>Rallus longirostris levipes</i>	E	Y	N	N
California clapper rail	<i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i>	E	N	N	N
California Ridgway's Rail	<i>Rallus obsoletus obsoletus</i>	E	N	N	N
Oregon spotted frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	T	N	N	N
Salt marsh harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	E	N	N	N
Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew	<i>Sorex ornatus relictus</i>	E	N	N	N
Callippe silverspot butterfly	<i>Speyeria callippe callippe</i>	E	N	N	N

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Behren's silverspot butterfly	<i>Speyeria zerene behrensii</i>	E	Y	N	N
Longfin smelt	<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Candidate	N	N	N
California least tern	<i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	E	N	N	N
Riverside fairy shrimp	<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	E	N	N	N
Riparian brush rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus bachmani riparius</i>	E	Y	N	N
California freshwater shrimp	<i>Syncaris pacifica</i>	E	N	N	N
San Francisco garter snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	E	N	N	N
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E	Y	N	Y
Sierra Nevada red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes necator</i>	Candidate	Y	N	N
palmate-bracted salty bird's-beak	<i>Chloropyron palmatum</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Hoover's spurge	<i>Euphorbia hooveri</i>	FT	Y	N	Y
Butte County meadowfoam	<i>Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Colusa grass	<i>Neostapfia colusana</i>	FT	Y	N	Y
hairy Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
slender Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	FT	Y	N	Y
Sacramento Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia viscida</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Greene's tuctoria	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Crampton's tuctoria or Solano grass	<i>Tuctoria mucronata</i>	FE	Y	N	Y

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Menzies' wallflower	<i>Erysimum menziesii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Kneeland Prairie pennycress	<i>Noccaea fendleri ssp. californica</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Contra Costa goldfields	<i>Lasthenia conjugens</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Morro manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos morroensis</i>	FT	Y	N	N
Lompoc yerba santa	<i>Eriodictyon capitatum</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Santa Cruz cypress	<i>Hesperocyparis abramsiana var. abramsiana</i>	FT	Y	N	N
Santa Lucia purple amole	<i>Chlorogalum purpureum var. purpureum</i>	FT	Y	N	Y
Camatta Canyon amole	<i>Chlorogalum purpureum var. reductum</i>	FT	Y	N	Y
La Graciosa thistle	<i>Cirsium scariosum var. loncholepis</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
California jewelflower	<i>Caulanthus californicus</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Ben Lomond spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe pungens var. hartwegiana</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Scotts Valley spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe robusta var. hartwegii</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Gaviota tarplant	<i>Deinandra increscens ssp. villosa</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Vandenberg monkeyflower	<i>Diplacus vandenbergensis</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Santa Cruz tarplant	<i>Holocarpha macradenia</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Tidestrom's lupine	<i>Lupinus tidestromii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Scotts Valley polygonum	<i>Polygonum hickmanii</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Chinese Camp brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea pallida</i>	FT	Y	N	N

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Mariposa pussypaws	<i>Calyptridium pulchellum</i>	FT	Y	N	N
soft salty bird's-beak	<i>Chloropyron molle ssp. molle</i>	FE	Y	N	Y
Ione buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum apricum var. apricum</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Irish Hill buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum apricum var. prostratum</i>	FE	Y	N	N
El Dorado bedstraw	<i>Galium californicum ssp. sierrae</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Webber's ivesia	<i>Ivesia webberi</i>	FT	Y	N	N
Antioch Dunes evening-primrose	<i>Oenothera deltoides ssp. howellii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Hartweg's golden sunburst	<i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Red Hills vervain	<i>Verbena californica</i>	FT	Y	N	N
McDonald's rockcress	<i>Arabis mcdonaldiana</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Howell's spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe howellii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Loch Lomond button-celery	<i>Eryngium constancei</i>	FE	Y	N	N
water howellia	<i>Howellia aquatilis</i>	FT	Y	N	N
Burke's goldfields	<i>Lasthenia burkei</i>	FE	Y	N	N
few-flowered navarretia	<i>Navarretia leucocephala ssp. pauciflora</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Lake County stonecrop	<i>Sedella leiocarpa</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Keck's checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea keckii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	FE	Y	N	N
coastal dunes milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus tener var. titi</i>	FE	Y	N	N

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salt marsh bird's-beak	<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum</i>	FE	Y	N	N
San Luis Obispo fountain thistle	<i>Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Pismo clarkia	<i>Clarkia speciosa ssp. immaculata</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Indian Knob mountainbalm	<i>Eriodictyon altissimum</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Menzies' wallflower	<i>Erysimum menziesii (Central Coast populations)</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Santa Cruz wallflower	<i>Erysimum teretifolium</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Gowen cypress	<i>Hesperocyparis goveniana</i>	FT	Y	N	N
Contra Costa goldfields	<i>Lasthenia conjugens</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Nipomo Mesa lupine	<i>Lupinus nipomensis</i>	FE	Y	N	N
San Joaquin woollythreads	<i>Monolopia congdonii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Gambel's water cress	<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT	Y	N	N
white-rayed pentachaeta	<i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Hickman's cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla hickmanii</i>	FE	Y	N	N
California seablite	<i>Suaeda californica</i>	FE	Y	N	N
Monterey clover	<i>Trifolium trichocalyx</i>	FE	Y	N	N
many-flowered navarretia	<i>Navarretia leucocephala ssp. plieantha</i>	FE	Y	N	N

III. Description of Proposed Action:

Issuance of a section 10(a)(1)(B) Incidental Take Permit. See HCP Chapters 1-6.

IV. Recommended Determination(s) of Effect(s): For all species and critical habitat identified in the action area, mark (X) the appropriate determinations.

A. Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species

a) “No Effect”

List species for which this recommendation is applicable: _____ .

b) “May Affect, but is Not Likely to Adversely Affect” (includes beneficial effects)

List species for which this recommendation is applicable: All species in section II. A.

c) “May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect” (if checked, proceed with biological opinion)

List species for which this recommendation is applicable: _____ .

1. Reasoning for Effects Determinations

There are numerous listed species with the potential to exist in the action area that have not been included for coverage in the HCP; we have determined that our action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect these species. The final list of covered species was refined through the application of the criteria used to decide on inclusion of the species for coverage as described in HCP Chapter 1, Introduction, section 1.5.2 Covered Species, and summarized here: 1) the species is known to occur or likely to occur within the Plan Area; 2) the species is currently listed as threatened or endangered under the Act, or was judged to have a high probability of being listed during the permit term; 3) the species may be adversely affected by PG&E’s covered activities even with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures; 4) sufficient data exists on the species’ life history, habitat requirements, and occurrence within the Plan Area to estimate the effects on species and develop conservation measures to avoid or minimize those effects. If an individual project that would also be a Covered Activity, is likely to adversely affect (pursuant to section 7) or is reasonably certain to result in take (pursuant to section 10) of one or more of these species, that project is not covered by the HCP or Permit. Such projects, if any, will be analyzed on a project-by-project basis via a separate section 7 consultation, or separate section 10 permit, as appropriate.

Suitable habitat for the Lotis blue butterfly lies within PG&E’s facility corridors; however, the species has not been observed within utility corridors since 1983 and is thought to be extirpated from this habitat. As with all other species listed in section II. A., should new information arise showing that the species still inhabits areas within PG&E’s facility corridors, individual projects that would also be Covered Activities within its habitat that would be likely to adversely affect the species (pursuant to section 7) or are reasonably certain to result in take (pursuant to section 10), would not be covered by the HCP or permit, as described above.

B. Federally Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat

a) "No Effect" to Critical Habitat

List critical habitat(s) for which the recommendation is applicable. _____

b) "May Affect, but is not likely to Adversely Affect"

List critical habitat(s) for which the recommendation is applied. All species in section II. A. with designated critical habitat

c) "May Affect, and is Likely to Adversely Affect" (if checked, proceed with biological opinion)

List critical habitat(s) for which the recommendation is applied. _____

1. Reasoning for Effects Determinations

Most species that have designated critical habitat within the action area have been included for coverage in the HCP. Those with designated critical habitat within the action area that have not been included for coverage in the HCP are addressed as follows:

Three fish have designated critical habitat within the action area, the delta smelt, tidewater goby, and Southern California distinct population segment of the steelhead. The applicant's facilities span waterways within these species ranges, and work within waters will require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Effects to the delta smelt and tidewater goby will be analyzed as-needed with site-specific section 7 consultations initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Designated critical habitat for the Morro Bay kangaroo rat is within the action area. Covered activities are not expected to affect critical habitat for this species.

Designated critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher is within the action area. Covered activities are not expected to affect this species due to the applicant's implementation of their Avian Protection Plan. Furthermore, the applicant has indicated they will seek incidental take coverage for this species on a case-by-case basis should effects beyond those anticipated in this biological opinion become likely.

Designated critical habitat for the arroyo toad is within the action area. Facilities corridors do not intersect designated critical habitat for this species. Covered activities in or near critical habitat are not expected to appreciably affect designated critical habitat. Effects on this species' habitat, should they occur, are expected to be insignificant.

Designated critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher is within the action area. Covered activities are not expected to affect designated critical habitat for this species.

Designated critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo and western snowy plover is within the action area; however, facilities are not near designated critical habitat for this species, and therefore we do not anticipate effects on critical habitat for this species as a result of covered activities.

Designated critical habitat for the Hoover's spurge, Butte County meadowfoam, Colusa grass, hairy Orcutt grass, slender Orcutt grass, Sacramento Orcutt grass, Greene's tuctoria, Crampton's tuctoria (Solano grass), and Contra Costa goldfields is present within the action area. Effects resulting from covered activities on designated critical habitat for these species are expected to be insignificant.

Designate critical habitat for Keeland Prairy pennycress, Lompoc yerba santa, Santa Lucia purple amole, Camatta Canyon amole, La Graviosa thistle, Scotts Valley spineflower, Gaviota tarplant, Vandenberg monkeyflower, Santa Cruz tarplant, Scotts Valley polygonum, and soft salty bird's-beak are within the action area. Facilities span habitat for these species and are not expected to affect it.

VI. Signatures:

Prepared by:

Name/Title: Josh Emery, Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Signature:  Date: 06/25/2020

Reviewed by:

Name/Title: Eric Tattersall, Acting Division Chief, Conservation Planning, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

Signature:  Date: 06/25/2020

Approved by:

Name/Title: Eric Tattersall, Assistant Field Supervisor, Recovery/Listing & Conservation Planning Divisions

Signature:  Date: 06/25/2020