# "G"

**Biological Study** 



Bole & Associates

October 6, 2014

Cable and Kilpatrick Attn: Andrew Kilpatrick 4661 Golden Foothill Parkway Suite 206 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

# BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION FOR NAPA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS 057-250-026 & 057-250-034, 451 TECHNOLOGY WAY, NAPA, NAPA COUNTY, CA 94558. B&A FILE 0906-2015-3393-02634.

# **INTRODUCTION**

During September and October of 2015, a Biological Resources Inventory was conducted on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 057-250-026 (approximately 2.7-acres) and APN 057-250-034 (approximately 2.86-acres),located on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cuttings Wharf 7.5minute topographic quadrangle, Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, City of Napa, Napa County, California (Attachment A, Figure 1.) Particular attention was focused upon the project's potential impact to federal and state special-status plants and wildlife species and their habitats. The site is currently vacant land which has been graded and improved with electrical and other utility improvements. Elevation of the property is 33 feet in relatively flat terrain. The site is located south of the intersection of Technology Way and Morris Court in Napa, CA. Surrounding land uses include predominately warehouse/offices to the north, east, southeast, south, and west.

A record search was completed prior to field surveys of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) *Federal Endangered and Threatened Species List* (NEPA) and the *California Natural Diversity Database* (CEQA) for the Cuttings Wharf 7.5 minute quadrangle and the adjacent eight quadrangles (see Attachment B). These documents list plants and wildlife that have Federal, State and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) special status. The subject property does not support habitat for any of the species listed by the USFWS or the State of California. Onsite surveys did not reveal the presence of any special status plant or wildlife species or any sensitive habitats (vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, etc.).

Field studies were conducted on foot making observations and noting habitat conditions, surrounding land uses, and plant and wildlife species. In accordance with guidance set forth in the United States Army Corps of Engineer's 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual a wetland determination was conducted. Field surveys were conducted to determine the presence of sensitive species, and/or suitable habitat for sensitive species (e.g. elderberry shrubs, seasonal wetlands, riparian habitats, etc.). These surveys also included ocular reconnaissance of the entire study area and buffer zones for nesting (or burrowing) raptors (*Athene cunicularia, Buteo swainsoni, and Buteo jamaicensis*). Site surveys were conducted by Wildlife Biologist David

Bole, BS, on September 28 and 29, 2015. A total of thirteen (13) hours on onsite surveys were conducted.

# **EXISTING SETTING**

# **Habitat Description**

The subject property is located in the City of Napa, California. The site is uniformly level with an elevation of 33 feet above sea level. The vegetation series, according to Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (1995), is Ruderal and Non-Native Grassland Series. There are no wetlands or riparian habitats on or near the subject property. These features are addressed below.

# **Ruderal and Annual Grassland Series**

Most of the dominant grasses are introduced, annual, non-native vegetation. Due to the phenology of these grasses they tend to dominate the landscape. Besides the brome, barley and ryegrass, other grasses found were wild oat (*Avena fatua*) and purple needlegrass (*Nasella pulchra*). Non-native forbs found at the site include yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), filaree (*Erodium spp.*), California burclover (*Medicago hispida*) and vetch (*Vicia spp.*).

# Wildlife Communities

Ruderal grassland habitats generally provide marginal breeding, cover, and foraging habitat for wildlife species. A limited variety of bird, reptile and mammal species were observed during the recent surveys. Species observed in these habitats include American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) and the western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). No raptors were observed during over thirteen (13) hours of onsite observations.

# **Special Status Species**

The following discussion describes the plant and animal species that have been afforded special recognition by federal, state, or local resource agencies or organizations. Listed and special-status species are of relatively limited distribution and may require specialized habitat conditions. Listed and special-status species are defined as one of the following:

- Listed or proposed for listing under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts.
- Protected under other regulations (e.g., Migratory Bird Treaty Act).
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern.
- Receive consideration during environmental review under NEPA & CEQA.

Special-status species were considered for this analysis based on field survey results, a review of the Federal Endangered and Threatened Species list for Sonoma County (NEPA, 2015),

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2015), CNPS literature, and database information provided by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cuttings Wharf 7 ½ Minute Quad).

# Table 1

# LISTED AND SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS POTENTIALLY OCCURRING WITHIN THE STUDY AREA, APNS 057-250-026/-034, 451 TECHNOLOGY WAY, NAPA, CA.

Species	Federal (USFWS) Status <sup>1</sup>	State (CDFG)/CNPS Status <sup>1</sup>	Habitat/Flowering	Potential for Occurrence	
Plants					
Astragalus tener var. tener, Alkali milk-vetch	None	T/1B.2	Alkali playa, valley and foothill grassland, vemal pools.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Chloropyron molle ssp. Molle, Soft salty bird's beak	E	R/18.2	Coastal salt marsh.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys	
Downingia pusilla, dwarf downingia	None	None/2B.2	Valley and Foothill grasslands (mesic), vernal pools.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Extriplex joaquinana, San Joaquin spearscale	None	None/1B.2	Chenopod scrub, alkali meadow, playas, valley and foothill grasslands in seasonal alkali wetlands.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Lasthenia conjugens, Contra Costa goldfields	E	None/18.1	Valley and foothill grassiand, vernal pools, alkaline playas, swales/low depressions	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Lathyrus jepsonii var. jepsonii, Delta tule pea	None	None/1B.2	Freshwater and brackish marsh, usually on marsh/slough edges	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Legenere limosa, legenere	None	None/1B.1	In beds of vernal pools	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Lilaeopsis masonii, Mason's lilaeopsis	None	Rare/1B.1	Freshwater and brackish marshes, tidal zones in muddy or silty soil	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Polygonum marinense, Marin knotweed	None	None/3.1	Marshes and swamps, coastal salt marshes and brackish marshes	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Symphotrichum lentum, Suisun Marsh aster	None	None/18.2	Marshes and swamps (brackish and freshwater), often seen along sloughs	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Trifolium amoenum, two-fork clover	E	None/1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub, sometimes in serpentine soil, open sunny sites, swales	<b>None:</b> There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	

Trifolium hydrophilum, saline clover	None	None/1B.2	Marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Birds					
Agelaiustricolor, tricolored blackbird	None	None/CDFG: SC	Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, endemic to central valley	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys	
Aquila chrysaetos	None	None	Rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats & desert. Requires large trees in open areas.	None:_ There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Athene cunicularia, burrowning owl	None	None/CDFG: SC	Open, dry grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low growing vegetation, requires burrows for nesting	Low: Burrow holes were noted onsite which could provide habitat; however, suitable perches/lookouts were not noted on site. None observed during onsite surveys.	
Buteo regalis, ferruginous hawk	None	None	Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills and fringes of pinyon/juniper habitats.	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Buteo swainsoni, Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper- sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs and agricultural/ranch lands.	Low: Suitable foraging habitat was not noted on the subject property; none observed during onsite surveys.	
Charadrius alexandrunus nivosus, Western snowy plover	Threatened	None/CDFD: SC	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Circus cyaneus, northern harrier	None	None/CDFG: SC	Coastal salt and freshwater marsh, nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in deserk sink to mountain cienagas.	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Geothlypis trichas sinuosa, saltmarsh common yellowthroat	None	None/CFDG: SC	Resident of SF Bay region, in fresh and saltwater marshes, requires thick, continuous cover down to water surface for foraging	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Hydroprogne caspia, Caspian tem	None	None	Nests on sandy or gravely beaches and shell banks in small colonies inland and along the coast.	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Laterallus jamaicensis coturnicuculs, California black rail	None	Threatened	Freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	
Melospiza melodia samuelis	None	None/CDFG: SC	Resident of salt marshes along th north side of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, tidal sloughs	None: No suitable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.	

		P		
Rallus longirostris obsoletus, California clapper rail	E	E	Saltwater and brackish marshes transversed by tidal sloughs in the SF Bay	None: No suitable habitat noted within or near property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
Riparia riparia, bank swallow	None	Т	Nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the deserts, requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean	None: No sultable habitat was noted within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
		Reptiles an	d Amphiblans	0
Emys marmorata, Westem pond turtle.	None	None/SCS	Permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitats	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
		,	Fish	
Hypomesus transpacificus, Delta smelt	T	E	Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, seasonally in Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strat and San Pablo Bay	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys. There are no waterways located onsite that could support fish populations.
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus, steelhead- central California Coast DPS	T	None	From Russian River south to Soquel, San Francisco and San Pablo Bay Basins	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys. There are no waterways located onsite that could support fish populations.
Pogonichthys macrolepidotus, Sacramento splittail	None	None/CDFG: SC	Endemic to lakes and rivers of the central valley but now confined to the delta, Suisun Bay, and associated marshes.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys. There are no waterways located onsite that could support fish populations.
Spirinchus thaleichthys, Iongfin smelt	Candidate	T/CDFD: SC	Euryhaline, nektonic and anadromous, found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys. There are no waterways located onsite that could support fish populations.
		Invertebrat	es and insects	
Branchinecta lynchi, Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T	None	Inhabit small, clear water sandstone depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt flow depression pools	None: No suitable habitat within or near the property. No vernal pools were identified onsite. Confirmed population of <i>B. lynchi</i> located at south end of Napa airport, approximately 2 miles to the southwest of the property.
Speyeria calippe calippe, calippe silverspot butterfly	E	None	Restricted to the northern coastal scrub of the SF peninsula, host plant is Viola pedunculata.	None: No suitable habitat within or near property. No host plants were identified onsite, and none observed during onsite surveys.
Syncaris paficica, California freshwater	E	E	Low elevation, low	None: There is no suitable

shrimp			gradient streams where riparian cover is moderate, shallow pools away from main streamflow.	habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
	i and a second	Ma	mmals	
Antrozous pallidus	None	None/CDFG: SC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rock areas for roosting.	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
Reithrodontomys raviventris, salt-marsh harvest mouse	E	E	Only in the saline emergent wetlands of SF Bay and its tributaries	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
Sorex ornatus sinuosus, Suisun shrew	None	None/CDFG:SC	Tidal marshes of the northern shores of the San Pablo and Suisun Bays	None: There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
Taxidea taxus, American badger	None	None/CDFG: SC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils.	<b>None:</b> There is no suitable habitat within or near the property, and none observed during onsite surveys.
C = Candidate spec = No designation 1A = Plants presume 1B = CNPS List 1B: 2 = CNPS List 2: 1 3 = CNPS List 3: 1 SOURCES:	ate listed as thread e special concern ies for future list d extinct in Calif Plants rare, thread Plants rare, thread Plants about which	tened species ing as endangered or thre fornia atened or endangered in ened or endangered in C sh we need more informa	California and elsewhere alifornia, but more common elsewh	

# Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies and those that are protected under NEPA, CEQA, Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The project area was systematically surveyed to ensure total search coverage, with special attention given to identifying those portions of the study area with the potential for supporting special-status species and sensitive habitats. No sensitive habitat was found on or near the project site.

# POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS

Site development will not result in impacts to listed federal or state plant or wildlife species. Impacts to common vegetation and wildlife habitats are as follows:

# **Common Vegetation and Wildlife Habitats:**

Project implementation will not result in alterations (removal) of natural plant or wildlife communities. The proposed upgrades of this site will not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or result in impacts to established native

resident or migratory wildlife corridors. The project will not affect the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

# **Special-Status Species**

Special-status species were considered for this analysis based on field survey results, a review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and CNPS literature. Based on the specific habitat characteristics of subject property, no sensitive plant or wildlife species will be impacted by this project.

# FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1) No special status species known for the Quadrangle, surrounding Quadrangles or the region were identified on the project site nor did the project site contain vegetation associations which would support special status species. This project does not pose any threat to special status species of the region. The project will not interfere or significantly impact any wildlife corridors. There are no significant biological resources associated with the project footprint. No significant wildlife dens, nests, or burrows were observed. The site does not contain any significant natural roosting habitat for bats or raptors. There were no unique or sensitive habitats identified on the subject property. No vernal pools, wetlands, or jurisdictional tributaries to Waters of the United States were present or associated with the subject property.

### Recommendations

Based on the results of this biological assessment, no special status species were identified on the subject property and it is concluded that further biological studies are unwarranted at this time.

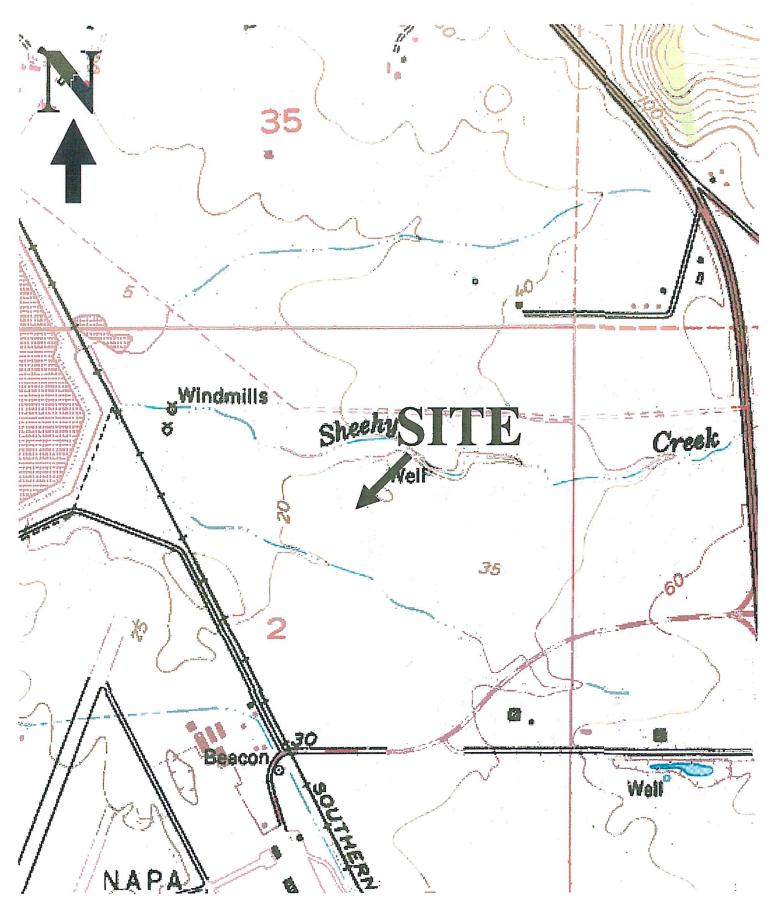
This concludes our biological evaluation of the property located at 451 Technology Way, City of Napa, APNs 057-250-026/-034, located on the U.S. Geological survey (USGS) Cuttings Wharf Quadrangle, Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Napa, Napa County, CA. If you have any questions concerning our findings please feel free to contact me directly at: Bole and Associates, Attn: David Bole, 6898 Penny Way, Browns Valley, CA 95918, phone 530-415-6623, fax 530-633-0119, email: davidhbole@yahoo.com. For a complete copy of the Statement of Qualifications of the staff members conducting this evaluation please visit our website at: mhbole.com.

**Respectfully Submitted:** 

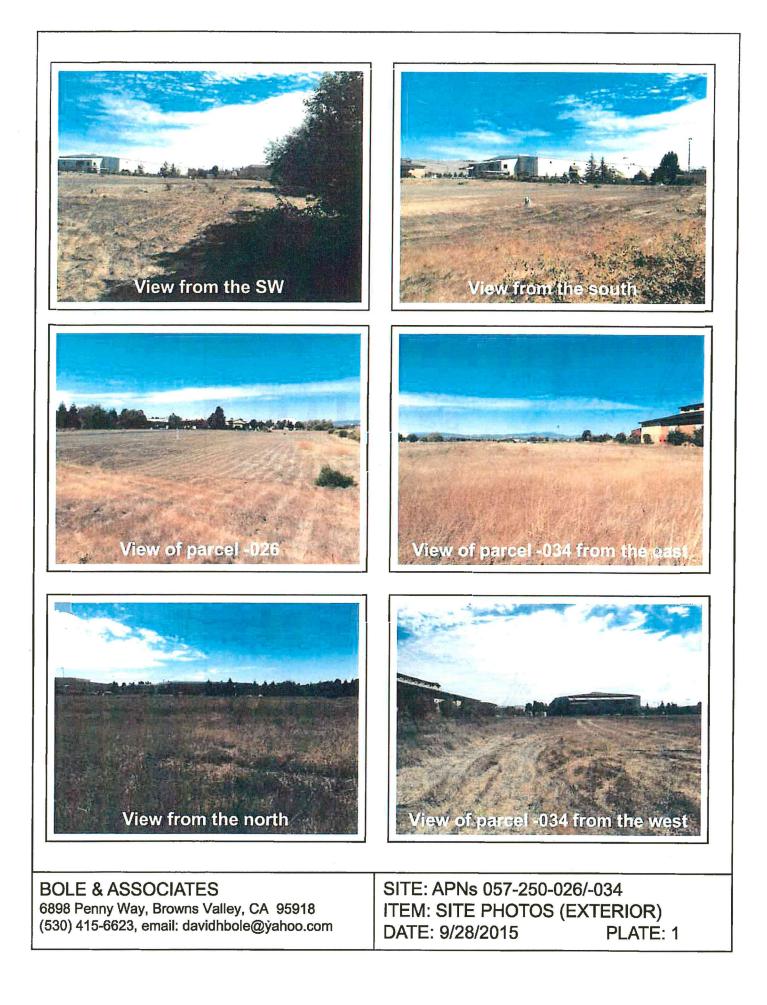
David H. Bole Senior Wildlife Biologist

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS ATTACHMENT A: SITE MAPS ATTACHMENT B: FEDERAL AND STATE SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LISTS AND DATABASES

# ATTACHMENT A: SITE PHOTOS & MAPS



<u>Site Location Map</u>: Subject Property, APNs 057-250-026/-034, 451 Technology Way, Napa, Napa County, CA 94558. Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 4 West, Cuttings Wharf USGS Quadrangle.





<u>Site Aerial Map</u>: Subject Property, APNs 057-250-026/-034, 451 Technology Way, Napa, Napa County, CA 94558.

, ,