# APPENDIX C
# Special Status Species with Suitable Habitat in the Study Area

## A. SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES

### 1. Hoover's bent grass

Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*) is a CNPS List 1B.2 species endemic to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. It occurs in dry sandy soils in open chaparral and oak woodlands below 600 meters in the coastal zone and south coastal outside range of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Occurrence #10 in the CNDDB is from Indian Knob, approximately four miles northwest the subject property; CNDDB occurrence #7 is from Arroyo Grande Valley, approximately 4.75 miles southeast of the subject property. Potential habitat for this perennial species is present in oak woodland on the subject site. This species was not observed during spring floristic surveys conducted in May through July 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 2. Wells' manzanita

Wells' manzanita (*Arctostaphylos wellsii*) is a CNPS List 1B.1 species endemic to San Luis Obispo County. It is considered rare due to its local range and specific soil requirements. Wells' manzanita is found in sandy soils and sandstone outcrops on stabilized sand dunes, in chaparral, and open oak woodland habitats. The distribution of *Arctostaphylos wellsii* is centered in eastern Arroyo Grande, extending from Squire Canyon and Indian Knob Hill south through the foothills of Arroyo Grande. The closest occurrence to the subject property is about one mile southeast, near the junction of Noyes Road and Highway 227, at approximately 400 feet in elevation (CNDDB occurrence #6). Moderate habitat is present on sandy soils in grazed annual grassland and among scattered coast live oaks on site; however, Wells' manzanita does not occur on the subject property.

### 3. San Luis Obispo mariposa lily

San Luis Obispo mariposa lily (*Calochortus simulans*) is a CNPS List 1B.3 species endemic to San Luis Obispo County. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, occurring on serpentine outcrops and granitic or sandy soils in habitats ranging from grassland to pine forest. Most occurrences of this species are in eastern San Luis Obispo County, although the species has been observed on the coastal side of the mountains. Its rarity status is due to its limited distribution, even within its natural range. The nearest occurrence is approximately seven miles northwest of the subject property, in serpentine soils at South Hills in San Luis Obispo (CNDDB occurrence #16). Potential habitat is present on the subject property, but San Luis Obispo mariposa lily was not found during spring floristic surveys in 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 4. Cambria morning-glory

Cambria morning-glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* ssp. *episcopalis*) is a CNPS List 1B.2 subspecies endemic to San Luis Obispo County. CNPS considers the plant fairly endangered with 20 to 80 percent of occurrences threatened. It occurs in coastal grassland, open scrub, and woodland

habitats. Its rarity status is due to the limited distribution of this subspecies, although it may be found commonly within its range and habitat type. The plant forms a small rosette and a conspicuous cream colored flower. Cambria morning-glory was not observed on the property during surveys conducted in May and June 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 5. Obispo Indian paintbrush

Obispo Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *obispoensis*) is a CNPS List 1B.2 endemic to San Luis Obispo County. CNPS considers the plant fairly endangered with 20 to 80 percent of occurrences threatened. It is an annual wildflower that occurs in coastal grasslands in sandy or clay soils. Approximately 1000 individuals of this subspecies were observed in annual grassland and mapped on the subject property in May and June 2006. The site was revisited in April and May of 2007, a drought year, and fewer than 50 individuals were observed.

### 6. Straight-awned spineflower

Straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*) is a CNPS List 1B.3 species endemic to Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. It occurs on sandy or gravelly soils in open areas of chaparral and woodland. In San Luis Obispo County it occurs in fine sands from eastern Arroyo Grande through Lopez Canyon, in decomposed granite in the Santa Margarita and Creston areas, and in shales in western Atascadero. The closest reported occurrence (CNDDB #19) is approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the property, in northeastern Arroyo Grande. Moderate habitat for this species is present in grazed annual grassland on the subject property. Althouse and Meade, Inc. surveyed the site in June and July 2006, concurrent with the blooming period for straight-awned spineflower, and did not encounter this species. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 7. Pismo clarkia

Pismo clarkia (*Clarkia speciosa* ssp. *immaculata*) is a federally listed endangered subspecies endemic to southern San Luis Obispo County. CNPS places this subspecies on List 1B.1, and considers it seriously endangered in California. It is an annual wildflower that occurs in grassland near oak woodland in sandy soils near the coast. The closest reported occurrence is from approximately one mile west of the subject property on both sides of Price Canyon Road (CNDDB occurrence #5). The agrestal/annual grassland habitat is moderately appropriate for Pismo clarkia; however, the dense weed growth and history of ongoing disturbance on site makes occurrence of this species unlikely. Althouse and Meade, Inc. surveyed the property in May and June 2006, concurrent with the blooming period for Pismo clarkia at occurrences nearby, and did not encounter this species. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 8. Leafy tarplant

Leafy tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp. *foliosa*) is a CNPS List 1B subspecies endemic to Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. (This taxon was included in the genus Hemizonia in the Jepson manual.) CNDDB occurrence #1 is from a 1998 report from northeast

of Lopez Lake. CNDDB occurrences #3 and 4 are from the vicinity of Pozo. Common tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp. *increscens*) was identified in grasslands on the property in the summer of 2006. Leafy tarplant is not known from Carpenter Canyon and is not expected to occur on the property. This rare subspecies was not observed on the subject property during floristic surveys conducted in June and July 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 9. San Luis Obispo County lupine

San Luis Obispo County lupine (*Lupinus ludovicianus*) is a CNPS List 1B species endemic to San Luis Obispo County. Its showy inflorescences prompted it to become the official flower of SLO County. It is now known by relatively few occurrences from east Arroyo Grande to High Mountain Road and Santa Margarita. The species was known from the old Oak Park School site in Tiber Canyon approximately 1.5 miles from the subject property. Appropriate habitat for this species occurs on the subject property. No perennial lupines were observed within the subject property during spring surveys conducted in 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

### 10. Black-flowered figwort

Black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*) is a CNPS List 1B species endemic to Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. It reaches its northernmost limit in Price Canyon and the vicinity of Indian Knob ridge (CNDDB #29, 30). This species typically occurs on diatomaceous earth or coarse soils derived from sandstone or shale. Appropriate soils and habitat conditions are present on the subject property. Black-flowered figwort was not observed on the subject property in May through July 2006. Based on appropriately timed surveys, this species does not occur on the property.

## B. SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMAL SPECIES

### 1. California red-legged frog

California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is a federally threatened species and California Special Concern (CSC) species with sporadic occurrences documented throughout San Luis Obispo County. It generally requires seasonal pools or streams that hold water until late summer for successful breeding. Bullfrogs and introduced fish are detrimental to its breeding success, and have severely reduced many populations in larger watercourses and perennial ponds. The drainage on the property connects to Cañada Verde Creek (the east fork of Pismo Creek) about 300 feet downstream, just west of Highway 227. Cañada Verde then joins Pismo Creek approximately 1.25 miles downstream. The Pismo Creek watershed is known to harbor red-legged frogs. A single adult was observed in a tributary to Pismo Creek in 2005, approximately 2.5 miles from the subject property (CNDDB occurrence #843). Although most of the drainage was dry by July 2006, potential perennial habitat is present in the reservoir on site. California red-legged frog protocol surveys by were completed in 2007 (Althouse and Meade, 2007d), with no California red-legged frogs observed within the protocol survey study area.

## 2. Southwestern pond turtle

Southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys* [=*Emys*] *marmorata pallida*) is a CSC species that inhabits ponds and slow moving streams with adequate pools. Pond turtles will move up seasonal streams during the winter months, and will over-summer in burrows or under deep ground cover when ponds dry out. The perennial reservoir in the northern drainage is poor turtle habitat because of frequent daily disturbances, small pond size, and no haul-out sites such as logs or rocks. The ruderal and anthropogenic habitats surrounding this pond are poor upland habitat for pond turtles. Pond turtles were not observed on the property and are unlikely to occur.

## 3. Silvery legless lizard

Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) is a CSC species that inhabits friable soils in a variety of habitats from coastal dunes to oak woodlands and chaparral. Silvery legless lizard is known from both coastal and inland habitats in San Luis Obispo County. The sandy soils in oak woodlands on the property are adequate for silvery legless lizard. This species is not likely to occur in open grasslands and heavily disturbed areas on the subject site. Legless lizards were not found on the property; however, detection of this species is difficult due to its burrowing habit. Legless lizard could occur in the oak woodlands.

## 4. Sharp-shinned hawk

Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) is a CSC species that roosts in intermediate to high-canopy forest or riparian areas. It usually nests in dense, pole and small-tree stands of conifers, which are cool, moist, well shaded, with little ground-cover, near water. The nest is a platform or cup in dense foliage against a trunk, or toward the center of a tree. Sharp-shinned hawks usually nest within 275 ft (90 m) of water. The breeding season is from April through August, with peak activity in late May to July. Sharp-shinned hawks bred in small numbers throughout much of northern California and in very small numbers in all the mountain ranges of southern California as far south as the Cuyamaca Mountains, San Diego County. Sharp-shinned hawks were not observed on the property during site surveys in May through August 2006, but there is suitable nesting habitat onsite in oak woodlands and riparian trees.

## 5. Ferruginous hawk

Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) is a CSC species. It is an open-country raptor that nests in Canada and the northern U.S., and winters as far south as central Mexico. In California, the ferruginous hawk is a fairly common winter visitor from September to April (Small, 1994). Habitat during both summer and winter includes grasslands, deserts, and other open areas with isolated shrubs or trees where less than 50 percent of the land is under cultivation. Large stick nests are usually constructed in an isolated tree or within a small grove of trees, and can be found on other elevated sites such as large shrubs, rock outcrops, buttes, haystacks, transmission towers, and low cliffs. Nests are located adjacent to open areas such as grasslands or shrublands. No ferruginous hawks were observed on the property during site surveys in May through August 2006. Ferruginous hawks are not likely to nest within the study area, as the species does not typically nest in California; however, it may forage within the study area and could potentially winter roost in oak trees onsite.

### 6. White-tailed kite

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is a CSC species and State of California Fully Protected species. Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except collecting permits for scientific research and relocation permits for the protection of livestock. The white-tailed kite nests in dense woodlands near meadows, marshes, or grasslands. Appropriate nesting habitat is present in stands of live oak trees on the subject property, although dense, continuous oak woodland on a neighboring property is likely to be more appealing. Kites were not observed on the property during site surveys in May through August 2006.

### 7. Peregrine falcon

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a state-listed Endangered Species (SE) and Fully Protected species. This raptor was removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list in 1999. Peregrine falcons are known to nest in Carpenter Canyon on steep rocky cliffs. A peregrine falcon was also observed foraging on the subject site during surveys. The peregrine falcon nests on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds, and human-made structures, especially near water. No potential nesting habitat is present on the subject property.

### 8. Loggerhead shrike

Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a California Special Concern (CSC) species. It requires open areas with appropriate perches for hunting, and shrubby trees or bushes for nesting. One shrike was observed foraging on the property in August 2006. Suitable nesting habitat occurs in oak woodland and dense willow riparian habitat on the property.

### 9. Other nesting birds

Other nesting birds protected by the MBTA and Section 3505 of the California Fish and Game Code have the potential to nest in trees within the study area.

### 10. Pallid bat

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) is a CSC species. This is a large, long-eared bat occurring throughout the state from deserts to moist forests. *Antrozous pallidus* is primarily a crevice roosting species and selects roosts where they can retreat from view. They frequently occur in oak woodlands where they roost in tree cavities, or in attics or rafters of buildings. These roosts are generally day or night roosts for one or a few bats. Communal wintering or maternity colonies are more common in rock crevices and caves. This species has been recorded at 22 localities in San Luis Obispo County (Pierson, 2002). In 2000, 20 pallid bats were observed in a tunnel under downtown San Luis Obispo, approximately 7.5 miles from the subject property. Pallid bat could potentially roost in oak tree cavities and small abandoned buildings on the Cold Canyon property.

## 11. Townsend's big-eared bat

Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) is a CSC species found in all habitats but subalpine and alpine habitats, and may be found at any season throughout its range (Zeiner et al., 1990). It is most abundant in mesic (wet) habitats. The Townsend's big-eared bat requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. It may use separate sites for night, day, hibernation, or maternity roosts. Most mating occurs from November-February. Births occur in May and June, peaking in late May. This species is extremely sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites (Zeiner et al., 1990). Townsend's big-eared bat could potentially roost in oak tree cavities and small abandoned buildings on the Cold Canyon property.

## 12. Western red bat

Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*) is a CSC species that is locally common in some areas of California, occurring from Shasta County to the Mexican border, west of the Sierra Nevada range and the deserts. The winter range includes western lowlands and coastal regions south of San Francisco Bay. Roosting habitat includes forests and woodlands. The western red bat roosts primarily in trees, often in edge habitats adjacent to streams, fields, or urban areas (Zeiner et al., 1990). Mating occurs in August and September and young are born from late May through early July. Western red bats could potentially roost in oak tree cavities and small abandoned buildings on the Cold Canyon property.

## 13. Western mastiff bat

Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*) is a CSC species that roosts in crevices in a variety of materials, including buildings, tunnels, boulders, and trees. Western mastiff bats were not observed during our site surveys. This species could occur in existing buildings and in trees with loose bark on the subject site.

## 14. American badger

American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) is a CSC species known from open grassland habitats throughout San Luis Obispo County and elsewhere in California. Appropriate habitat for badger is found in grazed annual grassland and coastal scrub on the subject property. Althouse and Meade biologists surveyed the property for dens or sign of digging that would indicate the presence of American badger, and did not find evidence of badger activity. Although this species could occur on the property, the current landfill activities make it unlikely that badgers will enter or use the property.