

APPENDIX C SENSITIVE SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

A. SENSITIVE PLANTS

1. Santa Margarita Manzanita

The Santa Margarita manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pilosula*) is a California endemic, perennial shrub that can reach two meters in height. This species is found at elevations between 170-1100 meters in closed coniferous forest, chaparral, and cismontane woodland; and is closely associated with shale outcrops and sandstone derived soils. The blooming season for Santa Margarita manzanita typically starts in December and continues through March (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS has placed this species on List 1B.2 which means CNPS considers this species to be “fairly endangered in California and elsewhere.”

The nearest documented occurrence of Santa Margarita manzanita is approximately eight miles to the northeast of the project site near the intersection of Upper Lopez Canyon Road and Hi Mountain Road in Lopez County Park (CNDDDB, 2007). The oak woodlands and coastal scrub in the dude ranch area could support Santa Margarita manzanita. Santa Margarita manzanita was not observed during the botanical surveys; and project activities are not expected to impact this species.

2. Wells' Manzanita

Wells' manzanita (*Arctostaphylos wellsii*) is included on CNPS List 1B.1, but does not currently have any state or federal status. The CNPS listing means that CNPS considers this species to be “*seriously endangered in California and elsewhere.*” This shrub occurs in the San Luis Range from upper Coon Creek in Montana de Oro State Park to Arroyo Grande and Nipomo. The main populations of this species are found in the sandstone hills between the San Luis Valley and the ocean. The blooming season for Wells' typically starts in December and continues through April (CNPS, 2007).

The closest documented occurrence of this species is located immediately adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the property in the vicinity of Los Berros Canyon (CNDDDB, 2007). Potential habitat for this species is located within the vicinity of the proposed Dude Ranch. Wells' manzanita was not observed during the botanical surveys; and project activities are not expected to impact this species.

3. Marsh Sandwort

Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) is a perennial herb in the Caryophyllaceae family that is found in freshwater bogs, fens, marshes, and swamps. The blooming period for this species typically begins in March and continues through August. The CNPS has placed this species on List 1B.1, which means CNPS considers this species to be “*seriously endangered in California and elsewhere.*” In addition, marsh sandwort is listed as Endangered under both the state and federal endangered species acts. To date, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has not designated critical habitat for marsh sandwort.

The closest documented occurrence of marsh sandwort is approximately 2.3 miles to the southeast from the project site. This occurrence is located within the vicinity of Black Lake Canyon in freshwater marsh habitat (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, potential habitat for this species is located in the wet portions of the various drainages and within sandy openings of Los Berros Creek. As proposed, the project would require installation of road crossings in several drainages that could support marsh sandwort. Marsh sandwort was not observed during the botanical surveys, which were conducted towards the end of the species normal blooming period.

4. Miles's Milk-vetch

Miles's milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*) is an annual herb in the Fabaceae family that is endemic to California and is found in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. It occurs in coastal scrub and grassland habitats on clay or sandy soils (CNPS, 2005; Hickman, 1993). This species blooms from March through June. CNPS has classified Miles's milk-vetch as "*fairly endangered in California and elsewhere*" (List 1B.2). This species is not listed under the federal or state endangered species acts.

The nearest documented occurrence of Miles' milk vetch is approximately 8.8 miles southeast of the property (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, potential habitat for miles milk vetch is located on the various slopes that currently support grassland or coastal scrub communities. Several of these sloped areas are proposed for agricultural development, which could result in impacts to the species. Miles' milk-vetch was not observed during the botanical surveys; however, surveys were conducted outside of the appropriate blooming period and could not verify presence or absence of this species.

5. Cambria Morning-glory

Cambria morning-glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* var. *episcopalis*) is a perennial herb in the Convolvulaceae family that is endemic to California and found only in San Luis Obispo County. It occurs in chaparral and woodland habitats (CNPS, 2005; Hickman, 1993), but is also known to occur in grasslands on clay soils (Hoover, 1970) and in coastal scrub. This species blooms from April through May. The CNPS considers Cambria morning-glory to be as "*fairly endangered in California and elsewhere*" (List 1B.2).

The nearest CNDDDB documented occurrence of Cambria morning-glory is approximately 11.4 miles to the north of the project site. Most documented occurrences of this species are located from the north coast down to the City of San Luis Obispo; however, a population was recently observed just east of the Village of Arroyo Grande (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, potential habitat for Cambria morning-glory is located on the various slopes that currently support grassland or coastal scrub communities and in the oak woodlands located at the northeast and northwest portions of the site. Much of the remaining intact coastal scrub and grassland areas are proposed for agricultural development, which could result in impacts the species. Cambria morning-glory was not observed during botanical surveys conducted early in the blooming period in 2006.

6. Obispo Indian Paintbrush

Obispo indian paintbrush (*Castilleja densiflora* ssp. *obispoensis*) is an annual herb in the Scrophulariaceae family. It is found through the coastal areas of San Luis Obispo County from San Simeon south to the southern end of Morro Bay and east inland to San Luis Obispo. It generally grows in valley and foothill grasslands within an elevation of 30-1300 feet. It blooms during the month of April (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “fairly endangered in California and elsewhere” (List 1B.2).

The nearest CNDDDB documented occurrence is approximately 3.4 miles to the northwest of the project site. This occurrence is located in Carpenter Canyon in non-native grasslands (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, potential habitat for Obispo Indian paintbrush is located on the various slopes that currently support grassland or coastal scrub communities. Several of these sloped areas are proposed for agricultural development, which could result in impacts the species. Obispo indian paintbrush was not observed during botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period in 2006; however, the 2006 surveys did not cover all the coastal scrub and grassland on the project site. Surveys conducted in 2007 were outside of the appropriate blooming period.

7. Straight-awned Spineflower

Straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*) is an annual herb in the Polygonaceae family that is found in Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Straight-awned spineflower occupies chaparral, coastal scrub, and oak woodland habitats on dry slopes with an elevation range of 85-1035 meters (CNPS, 2007). This species blooms from April through July and CNPS considers it to be “not very endangered in California” (List 1B.3).

The nearest documented occurrence of straight-awned spineflower is approximately four miles northwest of the project site. This occurrence is located in coastal scrub just west of Highway 227, 0.5 miles west of Printz Road in Arroyo Grande (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, potential habitat for this species is located on the various slopes that currently support oak woodland and coastal scrub communities. Several of these sloped areas are proposed for development, which could result in impacts to the species. Straight-awned spineflower was not observed during botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period in 2006; however, the 2006 surveys did not cover the entire available habitat on the project site. Surveys conducted in 2007 were outside of the appropriate blooming period.

8. California Sawgrass

California sawgrass (*Cladium californicum*) is a perennial, rhizomatous herb in the Cyperaceae family. It occurs in meadows, seeps, marshes, and swamps with either brackish or fresh waters. California sawgrass occupies an elevation range of 60-600 meters; and its typical blooming season is from June through September (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “fairly endangered in California but more common elsewhere” (List 2.2).

One known population occurs in USGS quadrangle for Oceano (CNDDDB, 2007). On the project site, suitable habitat is present in wet portions of the numerous drainages that traverse the site.

California sawgrass was not observed during surveys, which were conducted during the typical blooming period for the species.

9. Dune Larkspur

Dune larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *blochmaniae*) is a perennial herbaceous plant in the buttercup (Ranunculaceae) family that typically blooms from April to May. This species occurs in chaparral and coastal dune communities with sandy or rocky soils (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “fairly endangered in California and elsewhere” (List 1B.2).

The nearest documented occurrence of Dune larkspur is located directly adjacent to the southern boundary of the project site. This occurrence was observed in 1969 in the proximity of the Los Berros Creek riparian corridor. The various rock outcrops within the coastal scrub and oak woodland communities on the project site could support this species. Dune larkspur was not observed during botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period in 2006; however, the 2006 surveys did not cover the entire available habitat on the project site. Surveys conducted in 2007 were outside of the appropriate blooming period.

10. Indian Knob Mountainbalm

Indian Knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*) is a perennial shrub in the Hydrophyllaceae family. This species occurs in maritime chaparral, coastal scrub, and cismontane woodland communities on sandstone substrates. It occupies an elevation range from 80 meters to 270 meters on sandstone ridges. The typical flowering season for Indian Knob mountainbalm is March through June (CNPS, 2007). Indian Knob mountainbalm is protected under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. USFWS has not designated critical habitat for this species. The CNPS considers this species to be “seriously endangered in California and elsewhere” (List 1B.1).

The nearest documented occurrence of Indian Knob mountainbalm is approximately 10.4 miles northwest of the property on Indian Knob (CNDDDB, 2007). The numerous slopes and ridges that contain sandstone outcrops on the property provide suitable soil conditions for Indian Knob mountainbalm; however, this species is usually associated with maritime chaparral and *Arctostaphylos* species. Indian Knob mountainbalm, associated *Arctostaphylos* species, and maritime chaparral were not observed during the botanical surveys; consequently, project activities are not expected to impact Indian Knob mountainbalm.

11. San Luis Obispo County Lupine

San Luis Obispo County lupine (*Lupinus ludovicianus*) is a perennial herb in the Fabaceae family. The San Luis Obispo County lupine blooms from April to July and can be found growing in sandy or sandstone derived soils in chaparral or cismontane woodlands. The plant is known from fewer than twenty occurrences (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “fairly endangered in California and elsewhere” (List 1B.2).

The nearest documented occurrence of San Luis Obispo County lupine is approximately 4.15 miles southeast of the property, adjacent to Huasna Road (CNDDDB, 2007). The oak woodlands

and coastal scrub communities on the project site provide suitable habitat for this species. San Luis Obispo County lupine was not observed during botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period in 2006; however, the 2006 surveys did not cover the entire available habitat on the project site. Surveys conducted in 2007 were outside of the appropriate blooming period.

12. Carmel Valley bush mallow

Carmel Valley bush mallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *involucratus*) is a deciduous shrub in the Malvaceae family. This species is known to occur in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub communities that are associated with rock outcrops. Its known elevation range is from 30 meters to 1100 meters and it flowers from May through August (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “*fairly endangered in California and elsewhere*” (List 1B.2).

Populations of Carmel Valley bush mallow are known to occur in the San Luis Obispo USGS quadrangle (CNDDDB, 2007). The coastal scrub and oak woodlands on the project site provide suitable habitat for this species. Carmel Valley bush mallow was not observed during surveys; however, several non-flowering individuals in the *Malacothamnus* genus were observed near proposed lots 11 through 15. Based on the vegetative characteristics, the observed individuals are most likely *Malacothamnus jonesii*, which is on the CNPS watch list (List 4.3). These individuals could be impacted by the proposed project, and the specific identity of these individuals should be verified during the appropriate flowering season.

13. Black-flowered Figwort

Black-flowered figwort (*Scrophularia atrata*) is a perennial herb in the Scrophulariaceae family. It is found throughout San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties in closed cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, coastal dunes, riparian scrub, and chaparral. It blooms March through July, and is easily identified by a dark red to black flower that sits pendulant on a tall stalk (CNPS, 2007) The CNPS considers this species to be “*seriously endangered in California and elsewhere*” (List 1B.1).

The nearest documented occurrence of black-flowered figwort is approximately six miles northwest of the property, adjacent to James Way in Arroyo Grande (CNDDDB, 2007). The coastal scrub and riparian corridors on the property provide suitable habitat for this species. Black-flowered figwort was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period in 2006; however, the 2006 surveys did not cover the entire available habitat on the project site. Surveys conducted in 2007 were outside of the appropriate blooming period.

14. San Bernardino Aster

San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*) is a perennial herb in the Asteraceae family that occupies cismontane woodlands near ditches and streams. This species occurs at elevations that range from 2 meters to 2,040 meters. The typical blooming season for San Bernardino aster is July through November (CNPS, 2007). The CNPS considers this plant to be “*fairly endangered in California and elsewhere*” (List 1B.2).

The nearest occurrence of San Bernardino aster is approximately 2.65 miles west of the property at the base of Halcyon Grade. Several of the drainages that traverse the property provide suitable habitat for this species. San Bernardino aster was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted during the appropriate blooming period.

B. SENSITIVE WILDLIFE

1. Cooper's Hawk

Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) is a solitary species that is found in and around edges of deciduous woods. This species breed in deciduous, mixed, and coniferous forests; and is becoming more common in urban areas. The range of Cooper's hawk spans across southern Canada, southward through southern United States and into central Mexico. This species is known to hunt in the proximity of development and nest in tall trees. Cooper's hawk preys on small birds and mammals (Sibley, 2003). Cooper's hawk is considered a California Species of Concern (CSC) by the California Department of Fish and Game and is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

CNDDDB has not documented any Cooper's hawk occurrences within the search area; however, Morro Group biologist observed Copper's hawk during the 2007 surveys of the Laetitia property. The Los Berros Creek riparian corridor could provide suitable nesting habitat and the open woodlands could provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. Project activities could impact the nesting behavior of this species.

2. Sharp-shinned Hawk

Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) is a solitary species that winters throughout central and southern California and is an uncommon resident in northern coastal and eastern California. Its primary habitat is boreal forest. This hawk is often observed hunting around houses, hedgerows, and forest canopies (Sibley, 2003). Preferred nesting habitat includes young, dense, mixed, or coniferous woodlands; however, where conifers are scarce cottonwoods and poplars are often used. Sharp-shinned hawks usually nest in tree crotches or on branches that are close to the trunk and well hidden by thick foliage. Pairs may build new nests, reuse old nests, or modify existing bird or squirrel nests (Natureserve, 2007). Sharp-shinned hawk is considered a CSC by the California Department of Fish and Game and is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The nearest CNDDDB documented occurrence is approximately 4.3 miles southwest of the project site in the Woodlands Development Area (CNDDDB, 2007). Sharp-shinned hawk was not observed during the surveys of the Laetitia property. The Los Berros Creek riparian corridor could provide suitable nesting habitat and the open woodlands could provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. However, considering the properties available habitat, the nesting and migratory behavior of sharp-shinned hawks, it is highly unlikely that project activities would impact this species.

3. Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo

The western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) is a slender brown bird with white underparts. Although the cuckoo nests in walnut and almond orchards in California, its natural nesting habitat is in cottonwood-willow riparian forest. It usually arrives from South American wintering areas in June, and departs by late August or early September. The twig nest is typically constructed on a horizontal branch of a tree willow in a location hidden from view from the ground or surrounding trees.

Although the project site supports suitable cottonwood and willow riparian habitat, no western yellow-billed cuckoo were observed or heard in or near the project site. The most recent nearby CNDDDB occurrence record for the species is a 1932 egg set collection by Santa Barbara Natural History Museum from an unspecified location in San Luis Obispo County (CNDDDB, 2007). A recent posting on the San Luis Obispo County Birding message board indicated that an individual yellow-billed cuckoo was heard in the vicinity of “western part of Atascadero” along Highway 41. However, biologists have reservations regarding the accuracy of this recent record (Edell, 2004). There are no known recent nesting records in San Luis Obispo County and there are no known breeding locations outside of the currently known breeding locations, none of which occur in San Luis Obispo County. No other yellow-billed cuckoo observations in or near the project site are known.

The project site contains riparian habitat that could support yellow-billed cuckoo; however, it is highly unlikely that the proposed project would impact this species because the current nesting range is restricted to areas outside of San Luis Obispo County.

4. Willow Flycatcher

Willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) is a small, migratory passerine that ranges across North America and is a rare spring transient and an uncommon spring/summer migrant to San Luis Obispo County. This species is a summer resident within mountainous wet meadow and montane riparian habitats of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges after migrating from winter habitat in Central and South America. Dense willow thickets are required for nesting and roosting. Willow flycatcher is listed as California Endangered, primarily due to destruction of riparian scrub habitat and to cowbird brood parasitism. This species is afforded protection under the CESA, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code (nesting birds).

The project site contains riparian habitat that could support willow flycatcher; however, this species is not known to nest within San Luis Obispo County (UC Davis, 2007). Any occurrences of this species within the project site would most likely be during migration. Due to the lack of resident or breeding willow flycatchers in this county, it is unlikely that the proposed project would impact this species.

5. White-tailed Kite

White-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*) are yearlong residents ranging throughout valley and coastal lowlands in California, most commonly near agricultural areas. Nesting and roosting occurs in dense broad-leaved deciduous groves of trees. Breeding occurs from February to October, peaking in May to August. White-tailed kites prey on voles and other small diurnal mammals, and occasionally on birds, insects, amphibians, and reptiles. This species has Fully Protected status by CDFG, and the nesting life stage is considered sensitive.

Morro Group biologists observed two white-tailed kites during the 2007 biological surveys of the site. Suitable nesting habitat for white-tailed kite occurs within the tall riparian trees that are sporadically located through the properties drainages. The properties agricultural and open grassland areas provide suitable foraging habitat for white-tailed kite. Project activities could impact this species by disturbing its nesting behavior or minimizing available nesting habitat.

6. South-central California Coast Steelhead

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) is the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Steelhead historically ranged from Alaska southward to the California-Mexico border, though current data suggest that the Ventura River is presently the southernmost drainage supporting substantial steelhead runs. Optimal habitat for steelhead is characterized by clear, cool water with abundant in-stream cover (i.e., submerged branches, rocks, and logs), well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio (Raleigh et al., 1984). Steelhead can be found in stream reaches that contain less than optimal habitat. All populations of steelhead occurring within the south-central California coast ESU region were listed as federally threatened in 1997 (USFWS, 1998), and are also considered a CSC by CDFG

The nearest documented occurrence of steelhead is approximately 2.0 miles northwest of the property in Arroyo Grande Creek (CNDDDB, 2007). Los Berros Creek supports suitable habitat and the primary constituent elements for steelhead. According to the *Final Critical Habitat Designations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California for Endangered and Threatened Pacific Salmon and Steelhead*, NOAA has designated portions of Los Berros Creek as steelhead Critical Habitat. Steelhead was not observed during the biological surveys within Los Berros Creek. The drainages that traverse the property do not support suitable habitat for this species. As proposed, the project may result in impacts to water quality of Los Berros Creek, resulting from increased run off and deposition of petroleum products from added impervious surfaces.

7. Southwestern Pond Turtle

The southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*) is considered a CSC by CDFG. This turtle occupies quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes and is typically found in pools that range from 3.0 to 5.2 feet in depth (Stebbins, 1972). They require large amounts of basking sites that may include fallen trees, boulders, docks, irrigation lines, algal mats, or buoys. Southwestern pond turtles can occasionally be found crawling across creek riffles or traversing open fields during transient movements (Zeiner et al., 1990). Upland nesting sites are required near the aquatic site, and nests are typically located in open, clay or silt slopes to ensure proper

incubation temperature. Nesting sites may be more than 400 meters from the aquatic site, but most nests are within 200 meters (Jennings and Hayes, 1994).

The nearest documented occurrence is located approximately 3.6 miles northwest of the property (CNDDDB, 2007). An individual pond turtle from the *Emydidae* family was observed basking on an irrigation line in an existing agricultural pond that is located between proposed Lots 1 through 3 and proposed Main Road 1. This individual took cover before the biologist could determine its specific epithet; however, it is likely that the individual was a southwestern pond turtle. As proposed, the pond would be removed to accommodate for the development of Main Road 1. These activities would directly impact pond turtle habitat and potentially result in take of the observed individual.

8. Two-striped Garter Snake

The two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) is a highly aquatic species and is associated with semi-permanent to permanent freshwater habitats containing substantial emergent vegetation. It is also typically found in perennial pools containing frogs and fish, which are their primary prey (Zeiner et al., 1990). The two-striped garter snake occurs mainly along Coast Range streams from Monterey Bay south to Baja California (Stebbins, 2003; Stewart, 2003). Its elevation range extends from sea level to approximately 2,500 meters. Its habitat includes perennial and intermittent streams with rocky substrate bordered by dense vegetation (Jennings and Hayes, 1994). The species is infrequently found in streams or stock ponds lacking dense riparian vegetation along the banks. It is generally found near streams or stock ponds in the summer and occupies upland coastal sage scrub and grassy locations near its summer range in the winter (Jennings and Hayes, 1994). These snakes may also overwinter in small mammal burrows (Rathbun et al., 1993). During the day, this garter snake often basks on streamside rocks or on densely vegetated stream banks. This species is considered a CSC and is protected by the CDFG.

The CNDDDB does not indicate the occurrence of this species at or near the property. This species was not observed on or near the property during any of the site visits, however, Los Berros Creek and the stock ponds on the property can be considered suitable habitat for two-striped garter snake. It is therefore possible that this species is present within the proposed project site.

9. California Red-legged Frog

The California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) was listed as federally threatened by the USFWS in 1996 and is considered a California Special Concern species by the CDFG. The species occurs in various habitats during its life cycle, and breeding areas include lagoons, streams, and ponds. California red-legged frogs prefer aquatic habitats with little or no flow, the presence of surface water to at least early June, and surface water depths to at least 0.7 meters (2.3 feet) (Jennings and Hayes, 1994). The largest densities of California red-legged frogs are typically associated with dense stands of overhanging willows and an intermixed fringe of sturdy emergent vegetation. Although the species can inhabit ephemeral streams or ponds, populations typically cannot be maintained in ephemeral streams in which all surface water disappears.

California red-legged frogs typically breed from January to July, with peak breeding occurring in February.

CNDDDB documents numerous occurrences of California red-legged frog within the vicinity of the project site and one occurrence within the project site. Rincon Consultants, Inc. conducted protocol level surveys for California red-legged frog in October and November of 2000. The Rincon surveys identified nine California red-legged frogs centrally located in the property. These individuals were observed in the freshwater marsh and in-stream stock pond that are associated with Drainage G. Currently an agricultural road crosses Drainage G and has impounded the flows and created the stock pond. The proposed project would install force main utilities within the bed of the road. These activities could result in adverse impacts to the California red-legged frog habitat and potentially take of California red-legged frog individuals. The project site is not located within any of the eight San Luis Obispo County California red-legged frog Critical Habitat Units.

10. Coast Range Newt

Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*) has a discontinuous range along the coast of California from Mendocino County to San Diego County. Optimum habitats reportedly consist of valley-foothill hardwood forest in association with rivers, creeks, ponds, and lakes. This species is seasonally abundant within the upper watersheds of several San Luis Obispo County creeks, including San Luis Obispo Creek near Cuesta Grade, Morro Creek near Cerro Alto campground, and the uppermost reaches of Toro Creek. Coast Range newts have both terrestrial and aquatic phases to their life cycle. Adults are largely inactive, aestivating within subterranean refuges during most of the year. Following the first rains of fall, adults migrate to water, with mating occurring from September to May. Adhesive egg masses are deposited on submergent vegetation and rocks from May to June, with larvae hatching 5 to 7 weeks thereafter. Larvae transform to adults during the summer or fall of their first year. The CDFG considers Coast Range newt distributed from San Luis Obispo County southward as a Species of Concern. Riparian degradation related to urban development has likely contributed to population declines.

The nearest CNDDDB documented occurrence of coast range newt is approximately seven 6.9 miles northeast of the property. The Los Berros Creek riparian corridor and adjacent oak woodlands on the property provide suitable habitat for this species. Coast range newt was not observed during the biological surveys; however, the species could be present within the project site.