

***Burke Ranch Conservation Bank
Raptor Habitat Enhancement Plan
For the Montezuma II Wind Energy Project***



Overview

The Montezuma II Wind Energy Project is required to mitigate for “**permanent loss of aerial habitat and for ongoing impacts on avian and bat species.**”

The habitat protected at the Burke Ranch Conservation Bank includes suitable habitat for avian and bat species. As outlined in this plan, this existing habitat will be enhanced for raptor foraging and nesting; the resulting enhanced habitat will be monitored and managed in perpetuity.

Existing Raptor Habitat

The majority of the Bank is comprised of grassland habitats and scattered individual and clustered groupings of eucalyptus trees. These upland areas support foraging and nesting activities for raptor species. In 2007, an avian survey was completed by Jim Estep. The report documented extensive raptor use on the site including, nesting by American kestrel and red-tailed hawk. Subsequent surveys by WES staff have additionally documented successful nesting of Swainson’s hawk, red-tailed hawk, great horned owl, and loggerhead shrike. Burrowing owls have also been documented utilizing the Bank.

Additionally, the following proposed tree enhancement at the site will further improve foraging and nesting opportunities for avian and bat species. These proposed enhancements are consistent with the conservation values of the Bank and will improve the overall conservation values of the property.

Proposed Enhancement for Raptor Habitat

Westervelt proposes to plant 25 Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) along the entry way to the site. In addition, 25 Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) will be planted within the existing Blue Gum Eucalyptus Grove.

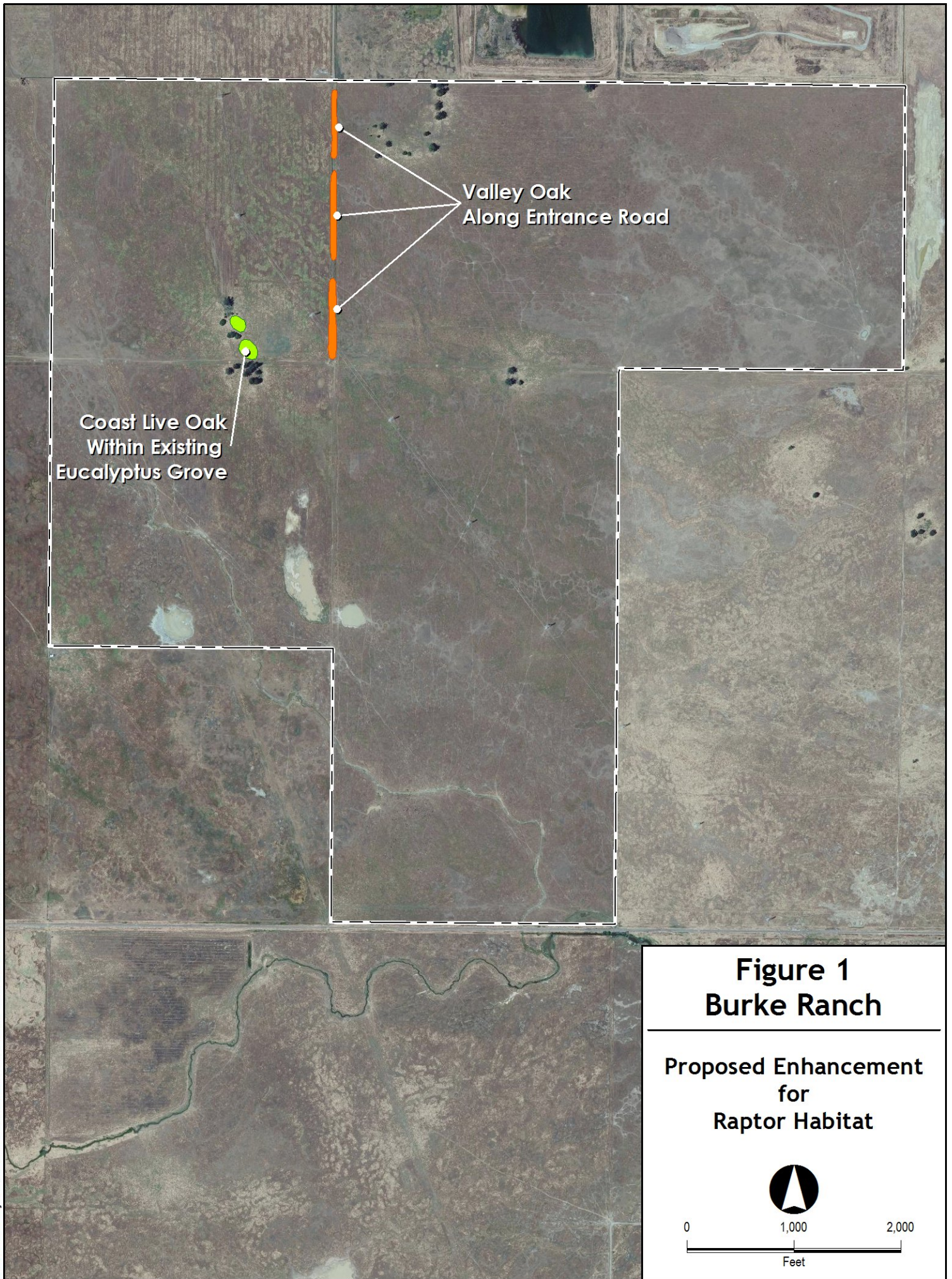
[Figure 1]

Performance Standards

At the end of the 5-year monitoring period a minimum of 70% of the installed enhancement trees will be living.

Monitoring Standards

Monitoring will be conducted annually for a five year period following installation of the enhancement trees. Monitoring will be conducted in late-summer or early fall during the period of peak water stress. During the monitoring visit individual tree survival and height will be measured by species in the field and each live tree will be assessed for growth vigor (poor, fair, good). Qualitative vigor assessments provide a rapid measure of the likely survival of the tree in coming years.



Valley Oak
Along Entrance Road

Coast Live Oak
Within Existing
Eucalyptus Grove

Figure 1 Burke Ranch

Proposed Enhancement
for
Raptor Habitat



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Feet