



CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM (CALVTP) CONSULTATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

ARE YOU DEVELOPING A PROJECT USING THE CALVTP PROJECT SPECIFIC ANALYSIS (PSA) PROCESS?

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) helps project proponents avoid impacts to fish, wildlife, native plants, and sensitive habitats, including California’s rivers, streams, and lakes.

We encourage you to consult with CDFW’s **Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program (TCFRP)** while you are reviewing potential impacts to biological resources and hydrology and water quality (PD-3.7 and PD-3.12 of the PSA checklist, respectively).



STAGES OF PSA DEVELOPMENT AND CDFW CONSULTATION:

Stage of PSA Development When Consultation May Occur	What to Provide to CDFW (Recommendations)	Benefits to Consultation
<p>AFTER initial desktop review and reconnaissance-level biological surveys (SPR BIO-1, page 3.6-119 of the CalVTP PEIR),</p> <p>BUT PRIOR TO species and sensitive resources field surveys (including protocol-level surveys)</p>	<p>Project Description</p> <p>Species Status Summary Table</p> <p><i>See “Resources” section on last page for link to example tables</i></p> <p>Maps of proposed project and site features (e.g., habitat, soils, topography, hydrology)</p>	<p>CDFW will ensure <u>project proponents</u> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the best available science • Aware of required surveys, survey protocols, and other considerations (e.g., survey timing) • Able to plan for permitting, if needed (i.e., budget, schedule, supplemental CEQA)
<p>PRIOR TO performing protocol-level surveys that require CDFW approval of surveyors (page 3.6-118 in PEIR)</p>	<p>Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV) for proposed Qualified Biologist(s) or Botanist(s)</p>	<p>CDFW will review surveyor qualifications and provide information on any permits and agreements that may be required for protocol-level surveys</p>
<p>AFTER you have completed the Draft PSA checklist for biological resources and hydrology and water quality sections (PD-3.7 and PD-3.12)</p>	<p>Draft PSA (Project description, maps of proposed project and site features, PD-3.7, PD-3.12, and Draft project-specific MMRP Attachment)</p> <p><i>in addition to content in row 1</i></p>	<p>CDFW will review/provide input on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRs and Mitigation Measures to ensure they fully avoid and/or mitigate potential impacts • Impact significance determinations



Consultation Checklist

This consultation checklist can be used as you are working through the CalVTP [PSA Pre-Implementation Checklist for Qualified Registered Professional Foresters \(RPFs\) and Biologists](#). Check the boxes that apply to your project to help determine if consultation with CDFW is required or recommended by the CalVTP Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). CDFW is available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Section A. Special-Status Plants (refer to pages 3-4 of the Pre-Implementation Checklist and the [Special-Status Plant Measures Flow Chart](#) (Plant Measures Flow Chart))

- It is infeasible to spatially or temporally avoid impacts to special-status plant species and their habitat(s)** (2nd row of [Special-Status Plant Measures Flow Chart](#))
 - “Further review and surveys will be conducted to determine presence/absence of sensitive biological resources...[which] may include contacting...CDFW” (SPR BIO-1: Review and Survey Project-Specific Biological Resources, page 3.6-119 in PEIR)
- Special-status plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA) have the potential to occur in the project area**
 - Protocol-level surveys are required, “unless determined otherwise by CDFW or USFWS” (SPR BIO-7: Survey for Special-Status Plants, page 3.6-123 in PEIR).
 - [Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities](#)

Mitigation Measure BIO-1a: Avoid Loss of Special-Status Plants Listed Under ESA or CESA

- The Qualified RPF or botanist is proposing that treatments would be beneficial for ESA- or CESA-listed plant species and that an exception to the no-disturbance buffer should be implemented for these treatments**
 - This determination will be made “in consultation with CDFW and USFWS” (page 3.6-136 in PEIR)

Mitigation Measure BIO-1c: Compensate for Unavoidable Loss of Special-Status Plants

- CESA- or ESA-listed plant species are included in the Compensatory Mitigation Plan**
 - “The plan will be submitted to CDFW and/or USFWS (as appropriate) for review and comment” (page 3.6-137 in PEIR)

Section B. Special-Status Wildlife and Nursery Sites (refer to pages 5-6 of the Pre-Implementation Checklist and the [Special-Status Wildlife Measures Flow Chart](#))

- It is infeasible to spatially or temporally avoid impacts to special-status wildlife species and their habitat(s)** (2nd row of [Special-Status Wildlife Measures Flow Chart](#))
 - “Further review and surveys will be conducted to determine presence/absence of sensitive biological resources...[which] may include contacting...CDFW” (SPR BIO-1: Review and Survey Project-Specific Biological Resources, page 3.6-119 in PEIR)



Section B (continued). Special-Status Wildlife and Nursery Sites

- The Qualified RPF or Biologist is proposing that a limited operation period will avoid impacts to CESA- or ESA-listed or Fully Protected wildlife species that are present in the project area year-round**

→ See Mitigation Measure BIO-2a below

- The Qualified RPF or Biologist will be conducting surveys for special-status wildlife or nursery sites (SPR BIO-10)**

→ Project proponent “may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding appropriate survey protocols” (SPR BIO-10, page 3.6-125 in PEIR)

Mitigation Measure BIO-2a: Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Listed Wildlife Species and California Fully Protected Species

- The Qualified RPF or Biologist is proposing that a limited operation period will avoid impacts to CESA- or ESA-listed or Fully Protected wildlife species that are present in the project area year-round**

→ “CDFW and/or USFWS/NOAA Fisheries will be consulted to determine if there is a period of time” when impacts to the species could be avoided (page 3.6-147 in PEIR)

- Presence of CESA- or ESA-listed or Fully Protected wildlife species is confirmed (through surveys) or assumed (in absence of focused or protocol-level surveys)**

→ The “Qualified RPF or Biologist will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS/NOAA Fisheries regarding the determination that habitat function is maintained” (page 3.6-148 in PEIR)

Mitigation Measure BIO-2b: Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Other Special-Status Wildlife Species

- Presence of other special-status wildlife species is confirmed (through surveys) or assumed (in absence of focused or protocol-level surveys)**

→ The Qualified RPF or Biologist “may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding habitat function” (page 3.6-149 in PEIR)

- Prescribed burning is one of the treatment activities**

→ “The project proponent may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information” to determine if timing of burning could avoid impacts to other special-status wildlife species (page 3.6-149 in PEIR)

- The Qualified RPF or Biologist is proposing that the treatment would benefit non-listed (other) special-status wildlife species and that no compensatory mitigation is required for these species**

→ “The Qualified RPF or Biologist may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS for technical information regarding the determination that a non-listed special-status species would benefit from the treatment.” (page 3.6-149 in PEIR)



Mitigation Measure BIO-2c: Compensate for Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Loss of Habitat Function for Special-Status Wildlife if Applicable

- CESA- or ESA-listed wildlife species are included in the Compensatory Mitigation Plan** (Note: California Fully Protected Species cannot be taken and must be fully avoided, so they cannot be included in the Compensatory Mitigation Plan)
 - “The project proponent will submit the mitigation plan to CDFW and/or USFWS/NOAA Fisheries for review and comment” (page 3.6-150 in PEIR)
- Non-listed (other) special-status wildlife species are included in the Compensatory Mitigation Plan**
 - “The project proponent may consult with CDFW and/or USFWS regarding the availability and applicability of compensatory mitigation and other related technical information.” (page 3.6-150 in PEIR)

Mitigation Measure BIO-2e: Design Treatment to Retain Special-Status Butterfly Host Plants

- CESA- or ESA-listed butterflies are confirmed or assumed to be in the project area**
 - “The project proponent will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS” to determine if impacts are avoided and habitat function is maintained (page 3.6-168 in PEIR)

Mitigation Measure BIO-2g: Design Treatment to Avoid Mortality, Injury, or Disturbance and Maintain Habitat Function for Special-Status Bumble Bees

- CESA- or ESA-listed bumble bees are confirmed or assumed to be in the project area**
 - “The project proponent will consult with CDFW and/or USFWS” to determine if impacts are avoided and habitat function is maintained (page 3.6-170 in PEIR)

Sections C and D. Sensitive Natural Communities, Riparian Habitat, Wetlands, and Watercourses (refer to pages 7-10 of the Pre-Implementation Checklist, [Riparian Habitat Measures Flow Chart](#), and [Wetlands and Watercourses Measures Flow Chart](#))

- Treatment activities will occur in or near wetlands, watercourses, or riparian habitat**
 - May require implementation of SPR BIO-4: Design Treatment to Avoid Loss or Degradation of Riparian Habitat Function. Project proponent “will notify CDFW pursuant to California Fish and Game Code 1602 prior to implementing any treatment activities in riparian habitats.” (SPR BIO-4, page 3.6-121 in PEIR)
 - Additionally, a 1602 notification is required for activities that may impact any river, stream, or lake. See [CDFW’s Lake and Streambed Alteration Program webpage](#)
- The Qualified RPF is proposing a deviation from the protection measures and design standards that are included in SPR BIO-4**
 - Deviation from protection measures and design standards in SPR BIO-4 “will only be approved [with]...an evaluation of beneficial functions of the riparian habitat and with written concurrence from CDFW” (SPR BIO-4, page 3.6-121 in PEIR)



Sections A and B. Special-Status Plants and Wildlife (pages 3-6 in Pre-Implementation Checklist)

- The Qualified RPF or Biologist will be performing protocol-level survey(s) for special-status wildlife species that requires CDFW review and approval of surveyors. Check the [Survey and Monitoring Protocols and Guidelines webpage](#) for species-specific protocols and their requirements.
 - ➔ The project proponent/lead agency must get “CDFW or USFWS approval” for qualified individuals (General Biological Resources Section, page 3.6-118 in PEIR)
- CDFW has permits or agreements tied to the Compensatory Mitigation Plan (e.g., Incidental Take Permit or Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement)
 - ➔ “The project proponent will consult with CDFW...prior to finalizing the Compensatory Mitigation Plan to satisfy that agency’s requirements (e.g., permits, approvals) within the plan.” (pages 3.6-137, 3.6-150, 3.6-152, 3.6-153 in PEIR)

IMPORTANT: If a CESA- or ESA-listed plant or wildlife species is encountered during treatment activities, “The Qualified RPF, Biologist, or Biological Technician will immediately notify CDFW or USFWS, as appropriate” (SPR BIO-2, page 3.6-120 in PEIR). See *Fuels Reduction and Post-Fire Contacts Map* below to find the regional CDFW contact for your project.

RESOURCES:

- [CalVTP Homepage](#)
 - PEIR: Scroll down to “Vol II: Program Environmental Impact Report”
 - Species status summary table examples (Attachment B) - in the [Example PSAs and PSA Addenda](#)
 - Pre-Implementation Checklist and other implementation tools (e.g., flow charts) – Scroll down to “MMRP Implementation Tools *NEW*”
- [Webinar – CalVTP in Practice: Navigating the CalVTP Consultation Process with CDFW](#)
- [CDFW Timberland Conservation and Fire Resiliency Program Webpage](#)
- [CDFW Environmental Review Webpage](#)

NOTE! It is important for anyone implementing vegetation management projects to know what CDFW permits may be required. **Even if you are working under the CalVTP for CEQA compliance, California Fish and Game Code provisions still apply.** Contact CDFW if you have any questions or to start a consultation.

To determine your regional CDFW contacts:
[Fuels Reduction and Post-Fire Contacts Map](#)

