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Reconnaissance Survey of Natural Resources

2501 Research Park Drive

Davis, California

Prepared by: David B. Kelley, Principal Scientist, K&AES, Inc.
Project Client: Blue Bus Limited Partnership
Project: Plaza 2501

This project site of approximately 6.5 acres of undeveloped land along I-80 in South Davis is a previously cleared block of invasive grasses and weeds formerly farmed to tomatoes and other crops. The site currently supports an exotic annual grass and forb community with few native plant or animal species. I performed biological and natural resource surveys on this site in the early 2000's and in the late winter/early- and late-spring of 2017.

Based on the results of my former and recent surveys, it is my opinion the project site does not contain wetlands or riparian areas, does not have significant value as a wildlife habitat, and any project on the site would not harm any species protected by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.), the Native Plant Protection Act (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 1900) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code), or the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code). Nor would a project on the site cause the destruction or removal of any species protected by a local ordinance.

Scope of Surveys

The surveys undertaken so far included an assessment of whether:

- The site contains wetlands or riparian areas;
- The site has significant value as a wildlife habitat;
- The project would harm any species protected by the federal ESA;

KELLEY & ASSOCIATES ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, INC.
Consultation in Earth, Environmental, and Agricultural Sciences
20 EAST BAKER STREET • WINTERS, CALIFORNIA 95694
TEL: 530-795-6006 • FAX: 530-795-6008 • E-mail: dbkelley@jps.net

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- The project would harm any species protected by the NPPA;
- The project would harm any species protected by the California ESA; and
- The project would cause the destruction or removal of any species protected by a local ordinance.

Surveys are ongoing and will include surveys for summer-bloom species that might occur there, but there are no indications that either the habitat or the land use history and conditions of the site support any species of concern.

Wetlands or Riparian Areas

The site is on well-drained soils that do not support wetlands and cannot be classified as riparian zones. The winter of 2016 – 2017 was one of the wettest on record, and no areas on the site exhibited indicators of hydrophytic vegetation communities, hydrological features, or wetland soil signatures. The site is relatively flat and featureless except for an old roadway berm running parallel to I-80 on the northern edge of the property.

Significant Value as Wildlife Habitat

The project site, a dense annual grassland, provides habitat for various urban species of animals, including observed feral cats and sparrows, and might have some values as foraging habitat for transient fauna. No roosting or nesting birds were observed on the site. It is not suitable habitat for ground squirrels or associated species. Therefore, the project site does not have significant value as wildlife habitat.

Protected or Special-Status Species

The project site does not appear to be suitable habitat for and does not appear to support any special-status species.

Qualifications of the Surveyor

This survey was undertaken by David B. Kelley, President/Principal Scientist of Kelley & Associates Environmental Sciences, a consulting firm founded in Davis in 1981. Mr. Kelley is a long-time teacher and qualified biologist, wetland scientist, and vegetation

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ecologist who has practiced full-time for over 35 years and has performed many such surveys locally and nationwide. He has permitted and completed many projects that deal with similar biological and other resource issues over that time, and he has taught plant and ecological science classes at the University of California, Davis, and Humboldt State University, among other places. Detailed biographical information is available on request.

David B. Kelley
President/Principal Scientist
K&AES, Inc.