

Appendix C
Glossary

Definitions of Key Terms And Concepts

Adaptive management. A method for examining alternative strategies for meeting measurable biological goals and objectives, and then if necessary, adjusting future conservation management actions according to what is learned (65 FR 106 35242–35257, June 1, 2000).

Aerial Signature. Characteristic value, color, or texture on an aerial photograph that correlates to a particular land-cover type.

Agriculture. Broad use term used to describe ranching and/or farming activities.

Anthropogenic. Caused or produced through human activity or influence.

Baseline. The existing environmental state, which includes past and present impacts as well as the anticipated impacts of all permitted projects in the inventory area.

Benchmark. A performance monitoring standard that allows a community to periodically measure the extent to which the goals and policies of its General Plan are met. Benchmarking: The process by which a community evaluates indicators, data and performance against established benchmarks to identify its progress toward its planning goals.

Biodiversity. The variety of native organisms considered at all levels, from genetic variants of a single species through arrays of species to arrays of genera, families, and higher taxonomic levels; includes the variety of natural communities and ecosystems.

Biological Assessment (BA): Under section 7 of the ESA. A document prepared to determine whether a proposed action is likely to affect listed species or designated critical habitat. BA's must be prepared for "major construction activities." The outcome of the BA determines whether formal consultation with the USFWS is necessary.

Biological opinion (BO). The document stating the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service as to whether or not a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02). A biological opinion is one of the decision documents of a consultation under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Biological goals. Guiding principles for conservation within the study area based on the conservation needs of the focal species and natural communities. The goals describe the vision for the focal species and natural communities to be achieved through implementation of a successful conservation program. Biological goals are typically qualitative rather than quantitative (65 FR 106 35242–35257, June 1, 2000).

Biological objectives. Measurable targets that will be sought to achieve the biological goal. Biological objectives are typically quantitative or at least measurable (65 FR 106 35242–35257, June 1, 2000).

Broad goals (or program goals). Broad guiding principles for the entire Strategy. These goals represent a summary of the “project purpose and need” for the Strategy and may be incorporated as a mission statement for the process and the plan. These are a different set of goals than the biological goals and objectives.

Buffer Zone. A strip of land created to separate and protect one type of land use from another; for example, as a screen of planting or fencing to insulate the surroundings from the noise, smoke, or visual aspects of an industrial zone or junkyard.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Section 2080 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits “take” of any species that the commission determines to be an endangered species or a threatened species. CESA allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects. CESA emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate mitigation planning to offset project-caused losses of listed species populations and their essential habitats.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Created in 1970, shortly after the Federal Government created the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CEQA is the basis for environmental law and policy to protect environmental quality in the State of California. CEQA does not directly regulate land uses but describes how project information and impacts are analyzed. CEQA requires state and local agencies to make decisions with environmental consequences in mind by mandating that they: Disclose the potential environmental effects of a proposed project to decision makers and the public (in Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) for example, etc.); Identify methods to minimize those effects to

the environment; Identify feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives to the project; and Solicit and respond to comments from the public and from other agencies concerned with the project.

CEQA species. Plant and animal species that are considered endangered, threatened, or rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and thus must be considered in CEQA documents, but are not focal species in the Strategy (670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, CCR). See also *endangered species* and *threatened species*.

City limits. Official jurisdictional boundary of a city.

Compensation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Compensation measures are actions that minimize or offset potential adverse effects of a proposed activity on species covered by the §7 consultation.

Condition of Approval. A condition placed on a development entitlement without which final approval may be withheld, often required to be satisfied prior to recording a Final Map, or receiving a grading or building permit. Similar to mitigation, although mitigations are often monitored over longer periods. For example, ‘prior to receiving a building permit, the Dept. of Fish & Game must be consulted.’ Or, ‘prior to receiving a Building Permit, the applicant must dedicate 10 acres to East Bay Regional Park District.’

Conservation. According to the federal Endangered Species Act, *conserve*, *conserving*, and *conservation* are the methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under the Act are no longer necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, activities associated with resource management such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation, live trapping, and transportation (16 USC 1532 [3]). According to the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, *conserve*, *conserving*, and *conservation* are the use of methods and procedures within the Plan area that are necessary “to bring any covered species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to [the California Endangered Species Act] ... are not necessary, and for covered species that are not listed pursuant to [the California Endangered Species Act] ..., to maintain or enhance the condition of a species so that listing pursuant to [the California Endangered Species Act] ...will not become necessary.” In other words, the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act defines *conservation* as the steps necessary to remove a species from the California threatened or endangered species list (Cal. Fish & Game Code 2085[d]).

Conservation actions –Specific activities that will be carried out to meet the conservation needs of the focal species and natural communities in order to achieve the biological goals and objectives.

Conservation Bank. A parcel of land containing natural resource values that are conserved and managed in perpetuity for specified listed species and used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same resource values on non-bank lands.

Conservation Easement. A tool for acquiring open space with less than full-fee purchase; the public agency or not-for-profit corporation buys only certain specific rights from the landowner in order to restrict the development, management or use of the land. A landowner (grantor) voluntarily sells and/or donates permanent legal restrictions on a property, to a qualified third party (grantee), to limit or prohibit development in order to protect conservation values such as cultural or historic structures, biodiversity, water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural uses, etc. The restriction is recorded and 'runs with the land' through successive owners. The restriction reduces the "highest and best" economic use of the property so that the property's value reflects only the allowed uses; property taxes may be reduced as a result. If the landowner donates the easement as a gift, this reduction in value may become a charitable tax deduction. An easement also can be sold to non-profit or government agencies to provide revenue. Sometimes referred to as a 'negative' easement since a conservation easement doesn't allow the grantee to do anything other than monitor and enforce the restrictions.

Conservation Values. Wildlife habitat, open space, historic, or recreational resources. For example, land may have a high conservation value if it contains habitat for endangered species or if it has open space in a highly developed area. Conservation values are usually assessed and included in the purposes section of a conservation easement.

Conservation strategy. The Strategy's overall and unified approach for achieving the biological goals and objectives. The conservation strategy is the collection of all conservation actions that will be implemented.

Construction monitoring. Monitoring by biologists of construction activities to ensure that conservation actions are implemented and impacts to biological resources are avoided or minimized in accordance with Strategy requirements.

Contribute to recovery. Actions that measurably increase the baseline conditions necessary to support focal species and that contribute to the eventual delisting of a listed species or prevention of listing of a nonlisted species. A contribution to recovery does not include actions necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts of covered activities.

Cover (also canopy cover, areal cover). The area of ground covered by vegetation of particular species or vegetation type, generally expressed as a percentage.

Critical habitat. An area designated as critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat areas are specific geographic areas that may or may not be occupied by listed species, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described and designated in the Federal Register (16 USC 1532 [5]).

Cumulative Impacts. The incremental environmental impacts of an individual project reviewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects considered together in order to ascertain the overall effect on the environment of a particular project. Also two or more environmental effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. An assessment of cumulative impacts is a requirement of CEQA.

Deed Restrictions. Terms are placed in the deed to the property that restrict certain uses of the real estate by future owners. No income tax benefits; possible estate tax benefits.

Discretionary Project. A project which requires the exercise of judgment or deliberation when the public agency or body decides to approve or disapprove a particular activity, as distinguished from situations where the public agency or body merely has to determine whether there has been conformity with applicable statutes, ordinances, or regulations. Discretionary projects and approvals trigger CEQA review.

Easement. A grant by a property owner of a positive right for a specific use of the property or a defined part to a second party. It may be temporary or permanent, is legally recorded and 'runs with the land'. It can be donated or purchased. Example: a landowner may grant an access easement, an easement to allow hunting, wood cutting, mining, etc. Some easements can be temporary.

Easement Value. The difference between a property's value before an easement is placed on it and the value after the easement is placed on it.

Ecological integrity. Ecosystems have *ecological integrity* when their native components are intact, including abiotic components, biodiversity, and ecosystem processes.

Ecosystem. A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

Ecosystem function. The sum total of processes operating at the ecosystem level, such as the cycling of matter, energy, and nutrients.

Ecosystem restoration. The reestablishment of ecological functions within an area that historically supported those functions.

Endangered species. A native species, subspecies, variety of organism, or distinct population segment (DPS) which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease (16 USC 1532[6], Cal. Fish & Game Code Section 2062).

Endangered Species Act (ESA). Created in 1973, the ESA provides a program for the conservation of federally threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior maintains a worldwide list which, as of February 20, 2008, included 1574 endangered species (599 are plants) and 351 threatened species (148 are plants). Species include grasses, flowers, trees, insects, crustaceans, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Anyone can petition USFWS to include a species on this list (7 USC §136; 16 USC §460 et seq).

Endemic. A species, subspecies, or variety found only in the region defined.

Environmental gradient. A shift in physical and ecological parameters across a landscape, such as changes in topography, climate, land cover types, or natural communities.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In CEQA, a document used to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of a project, evaluate reasonable alternatives to the project, and identify mitigation measures necessary to minimize the impacts. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the agency with primary responsibility over the approval of a project (the lead agency) evaluate the project's potential impacts in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). EIRs typically have a draft (DEIR) and a Final (FEIR) stage.

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement – Environmental impact document prepared pursuant to NEPA, in place of the term EIR which is used in CEQA.

Environmental Assessment: Under NEPA - A document that briefly discusses the environmental consequences of a proposed action and alternatives.

Ephemeral stream. Stream that flows only in response to rain events and receives no groundwater input.

Extinct species. A species no longer in existence.

Extirpated species. A species no longer surviving in regions that were once part of its range.

Farming. Narrow use term used to describe cultivation activities, including orchards, vineyards, hay, or grain farming, truck farming, and activities on irrigated and/or drylands.

Federal Action: Discretionary actions authorized, funded, or carried out by federal agency.

Federal Nexus. Occurring at the discretion of a federal agency, whether it be through permitting, funding, or direct implementation of a project.

Focal species. Those species addressed in the Strategy for which mitigation actions will be described.

Gap Analysis. A comparison of the distribution of elements of biodiversity with that of areas managed for their long-term viability to identify elements with inadequate representation.

Geographic Information System (GIS). Computer-based mapping technology that manipulates geographic data in digital layers and facilitates a wide array of environmental analyses.

Genetic Diversity. Variety among individuals within a species -- or, more specifically, the variety in the DNA of a species. See also "alleles."

Habitat. The environmental conditions that support occupancy of a given organism in a specified area (Hall et al. 1997). In scientific and lay publications, habitat is defined in many different ways and for many different purposes. For the purposes of the Conservation Strategy, habitat is defined as the specific places where the environmental conditions (i.e., physical and biological conditions) are present that are required to support occupancy by individuals or populations of a given species. Habitat may be occupied (i.e., individuals or a population of the species are or have recently been present) or unoccupied. See also *unoccupied habitat*.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): Under section 10 of the ESA. A plan that outlines ways of maintaining, enhancing, and protecting a given habitat type needed to protect species; usually includes measures to minimize impacts, and may include provisions for permanently protecting land, restoring habitat, and relocating plants or animals to another area. Required before an incidental take permit may be issued.

Habitat creation. The establishment of a natural community in an area that did not previously support it. For example, stock ponds can be created in areas that previously did not support them by grading and installing a check dam.

Habitat enhancement. The improvement of an existing degraded natural community. Habitat enhancement involves improving one or more ecological factors, such as species richness, species diversity, overall vegetative cover, or wildlife value. Enhancement activities typically occur on substrates that are largely intact.

Habitat quality. The ability of the environment to provide conditions that support the persistence of individuals and populations (Hall et al. 1997). The precise meaning of habitat quality varies by species and depends on the subject species' specific needs in the context of a particular area. High-quality habitat for some species comprises only foraging and resting elements; for others it comprises foraging, resting, and nesting elements; for still others it may encompass all elements needed for the species to complete its lifecycle. Low-quality habitat would include only the minimal elements that support occurrence of the species. High-quality habitat tends to support larger numbers of species than low-quality habitat.

Habitat restoration. *See Restoration.*

Harass. An intentional or negligent act or omission that creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). One component of the legal definition of "take" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Harm. An act that kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation which results in injury of or death to wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). Harm is one component of the legal definition of "take" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Highest And Best Use. The most profitable likely and legal use to which a parcel of land is likely to be put (a determination made in calculating value).

Hydrology. The movement of surface and subsurface water flows in a given area. The hydrology of an area is intimately connected with its precipitation, soils, and topography.

In perpetuity. Always; forever.

Incidental take. Any take otherwise prohibited, if such take is incidental to and not the purpose of the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity (50 CFR 17.3).

Incidental Take Permit: A permit issued under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA to a non-Federal party undertaking an otherwise lawful project that might result in take of an endangered or threatened species. Application for an incidental take permit is subject to certain requirements, including preparation by the permit

applicant of a conservation plan, generally known as a "Habitat Conservation Plan" or "HCP."

Indicator species. A species, the presence or absence of which is indicative of a particular habitat, community, or set of environmental conditions (Lincoln et al. 1998).

Infrastructure. A general term describing public and quasi-public utilities and facilities such as roads, bridges, sewers and sewer plants, water lines, parks and other public spaces, power lines, schools, police and fire protection, and health and welfare services, etc. necessary for the functioning of an urban area.

Initial Study. In CEQA, a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency to determine whether an EIR or a Negative Declaration must be prepared or to identify the significant environmental effects to be analyzed in an EIR.

In-kind/on-site mitigation. Establishing a vegetative community or habitat that would provide the same ecological values over time as the habitat affected. This created habitat must be within, or in proximity to, the site where habitat will be lost. Proximity requirements vary by resource. For focal species, those requirements would depend on the natural history traits and home range of the species and specific requirements would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Since habitat created with this type of mitigation is essentially equal and near to the affected habitat, it would directly benefit those populations impacted by development and is a preferred means of mitigation.

In-kind/off-site mitigation. Establishing a vegetative community or habitat that would provide the same ecological values over time as the habitat affected. This created habitat may be distant from the site experiencing habitat loss and does not fall under the proximity requirements of on-site creation for that resource. This form of mitigation would only be appropriate in cases where in-kind habitat would be inferior if created on-site. Since habitat created with this type of mitigation is off-site, it does not necessarily benefit those populations impacted by development.

Intermittent stream. A stream that is supplied by both rainfall runoff and groundwater; intermittent streams tend to be seasonal, flowing during the rainy season and into the late spring or early summer.

Invasive species. A species that is non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Atkinson et al. 2004; EO 13112).

Jeopardy: Under the ESA, jeopardy occurs when an action is reasonably expected, directly or indirectly, to diminish a species' numbers, reproduction, or distribution so that the likelihood of survival and recovery in the wild is appreciably reduced.

Keystone predator. The dominant predator, often the top predator in a given food web; a predator having a major influence on community structure, often in excess of that expected from its relative abundance (Lincoln et al. 1998).

Keystone species. A species whose impacts on its community or ecosystem are large, and much larger than would be expected from its abundance (Meffe and Carroll 2005).

Land-cover type. The dominant feature of the land surface discernible from aerial photographs and defined by vegetation, water, or human uses.

Land-use designation. The designation, by parcel, in an adopted city or county General Plan of the allowable uses.

Less than Significant Impact. In CEQA, an impact that would not result in a substantial and adverse change in the environment and would not require mitigation.

Linkage/Corridor. A linkage is an area of land that supports or contributes to the long-term movement of wildlife and genetic material. A corridor is a specific route that is used for movement and migration of species. A corridor may be different from a linkage because it represents a smaller or narrower avenue for movement.

Listed Species. These are plant and animal species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened. The Secretary of the Interior publishes these lists in the Federal Register.

Management Agreement. A landowner and a governmental agency or land trust enter into a generally informal contract concerning how the property's natural resources are to be managed. More formal management agreements are often associated with mitigation properties.

Mesic. Intermediate in moisture, without extremes; neither wet (hydic) nor dry (xeric).

Metapopulation. A group of partially isolated populations belonging to the same species that are connected by pathways of immigration and emigration. Exchange of individuals occurs between such populations, enabling recolonization of sites from which the species has recently become extirpated (Lincoln et al. 1998).

Mitigation. Actions or project design features that reduce environmental impacts by avoiding, minimizing, or compensating for adverse effects (Fulton 1999).

Mitigation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Mitigation measures are actions that reduce or address potential adverse effects of a proposed activity on species covered by a HCP, under §10 ESA.

Mitigation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: actions taken to offset the adverse effects of the loss of wetlands.

Mitigation Bank. Large blocks of land preserved, restored, and enhanced for purposes of consolidating mitigation for and mitigating in advance for projects that take listed species or affect protected natural resources.

Mitigated Negative Declaration. In CEQA, a Negative Declaration that incorporates mitigation measures into the design of the project or establishes measures as conditions of project approval to avoid significant effects.

Mitigation Monitoring Program. In CEQA, when a lead agency adopts a mitigated negative declaration or an EIR, it must adopt a program of monitoring or reporting which will ensure that mitigation measures are implemented.

Natural community. A collection of species that co-occur in the same habitat or area and interact through trophic and spatial relationships. Communities are typically characterized by reference to one or more dominant species.

Negative Declaration. In CEQA, a written statement prepared by the Lead Agency that briefly describes the reasons that a project, not exempt from CEQA, will not have a significant effect on the environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an EIR.

Non-native species. A species that is not native to the ecosystem under consideration.

Out-of-kind/on-site mitigation. Establishing a similar vegetative community that will, over time, develop some of the same ecological functions and values as the affected habitat. This created habitat must be within, or in proximity to, the site where habitat will be lost. Proximity requirements vary by resource. For focal species, those requirements would depend on the natural history traits and home range of the species and specific requirements would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Since the habitat created by this type of mitigation is unequal to the affected habitat, it should only be used in instances where there is a compelling biologically-based rationale.

Out-of-kind/off-site mitigation. Establishing a similar vegetative community that will, over time, develop some of the same ecological functions and values as the affected habitat. This created habitat may be distant from the site experiencing habitat loss and does not fall under the proximity requirements of on-site creation for that resource. Since the habitat created by this type of

mitigation is unequal to, and distant from, the affected habitat, it is a less acceptable means of mitigation.

Perennial stream. Year-round stream that is supplied by both rainfall runoff and groundwater, as well as by substantial dry-season inputs.

Performance indicator. An environmental variable that is quantitatively measured over time to determine whether enhanced, created, or restored natural communities have successfully met the Strategy's biological goals and objectives.

Performance objective. In monitoring, the optimal desired value for each performance indicator. Performance objectives establish a higher threshold for each indicator than that established for performance standards. Funding, design, and management objectives for enhanced, created, or restored natural communities are established at levels that are designed to ensure that the performance objectives are achieved. Failure to meet a performance objective would not constitute a changed circumstance or require remedial measures.

Performance period. In monitoring, the time over which performance standards must be met.

Performance standard. In monitoring, a minimum requirement necessary to achieve biological goals and objectives. Failure to achieve a performance standard could constitute a changed circumstance and require that remedial measures be implemented.

Population. A group of individuals of the same species inhabiting a given geographic area, among which mature individuals reproduce or are likely to reproduce. Ecological interactions and genetic exchange are more likely among individuals within a population than among individuals of separate populations of the same species.

Practicable. Referring to an action, available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purpose (45 FR 85344, December 24, 1980: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Part 40 CFR 230.3, Definitions).

Preconstruction surveys. Surveys conducted for certain biological resources immediately prior to construction, as directed by the permitting process under the CEQA, ESA, or CESA, to ensure that species are adequately protected and that habitat avoidance and minimization measures can be effectively implemented during construction or implementation of project activities.

Preservation. Preventing changes in land use from a natural state by, for example, acquiring land or a conservation easement.

Project description. In CEQA, describes the basic characteristics of the project including location, need for the project, project objectives, technical and environmental characteristics, project size and design, project phasing and required permits. The level of detail provided in the project description varies according to the type of environmental document prepared.

Recovery goal. An established goal, usually quantitative, in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or by the National Marine Fisheries Service recovery plan that identifies when a listed species is restored to a point at which the protections of the federal Endangered Species Act are no longer required.

Range. The geographic area a species is known or believed to occupy.

Recovery plan. A document published by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or by the National Marine Fisheries Service that lists the status of a listed species and the actions necessary to remove the species from the endangered species list.

Recovery. The process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is arrested or reversed or threats to its survival neutralized so that its long-term survival in nature can be ensured. Recovery entails actions to achieve the conservation and survival of a species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service 1998), including actions to prevent any further erosion of a population's viability and genetic integrity, as well as actions to restore or establish environmental conditions that enable a species to persist (i.e., the long-term occurrence of a species through the full range of environmental variation).

Regulatory Agencies. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Restoration. Establishment of a natural community or habitat in an area that historically supported it, but no longer supports it because of the loss of one or more required ecological factors. Restoration typically involves altering the substrate or physical features to improve a site's ability to support the historic natural community or habitat.

Riparian habitat or vegetation. Vegetation associated with river, stream, or lake banks and floodplains. Also defined by USFWS (1998) as: Plant communities contiguous to and affected by surface and subsurface hydrologic features of perennial or intermittent lotic and lentic water bodies (i.e., rivers, streams, lakes, or drainage ways). Riparian areas have one or both of the following characteristics: 1) distinctively different vegetation than adjacent areas, 2) species similar to adjacent areas but exhibiting more vigorous or robust growth forms due to the greater availability of surface and subsurface water.

Ruderal. A species or plant community that occurs on a highly disturbed site.

Setback. A minimum distance required by zoning to be maintained between two structures or between a structure and property lines.

Significant effect on the environment. Under CEQA, a significant effect on the environment means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance. Mitigation measures are proposed, where feasible, to reduce the magnitude of significant impacts.

Significant and Unavoidable Impact. Under CEQA, an impact that would result in a substantial adverse effect on the environment which would not be mitigable to a less-than-significant level. A project with such an impact could still proceed, provided the Lead Agency prepares a Statement of Overriding Considerations, pursuant to Section 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, explaining why the Agency would proceed with the project despite the occurrence of such an impact.

Special-status species. Plants and animals that are legally protected under ESA, CESA, or other regulations, and species that are considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing.

Species. A taxonomic level; a group of organisms that resemble one another in appearance, general behavior, ecological niche, chemical makeup and processes, and genetic structure. Organisms that reproduce sexually are classified as members of the same species only if they can actually or potentially interbreed with one another and produce fertile offspring.

Study area. Geographic area studied by the Strategy.

Succession. The change in the composition and structure of a biological community over time. Successional patterns often shift dramatically following a major disturbance (e.g., fire, flood, anthropogenic clearing of land).

Suitable habitat. Habitat that exhibits the characteristics necessary to support a given species.

Take. According to the federal Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1532 [19]), *take* means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. According to California Fish and Game Code (Cal. Fish & Game Code Section 86), *take* means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or to attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

Threatened species. A native species, subspecies, variety, or distinct population segment (DPS) of an organism that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future throughout all of a significant portion of its range (16 USC 1532 [5], Cal. Fish & Game Code Section 2067).

Unoccupied habitat. Habitat that exhibits all the constituent elements necessary for a species, but which surveys have determined is not currently occupied by that species. The lack of individuals or populations in the habitat is assumed to be the result of reduced numbers or distribution of the species such that some habitat areas are unused. It is expected that these areas would be used if species numbers or distribution were greater. See also *suitable habitat*.

Urban growth boundary (UGB). An officially adopted and mapped line dividing land to be developed from land to be protected for natural or rural uses, including agriculture. UGBs are regulatory tools, often designated for 20 or more years to provide greater certainty for both development and conservation goals.

Urban service area. The area within a city's sphere of influence where utilities such as gas, water, sewer, and electricity, and public services such as police, fire, schools, and parks and recreation are and will be provided.

Vernal Pools. Vernal pools are land depressions that are covered by shallow water for variable periods from winter to spring, but may be completely dry for most of the summer and fall. These wetlands range in size from small puddles to shallow lakes and are usually found in a gently sloping plain of grassland. Although generally isolated, they are sometimes connected to each other by small drainages known as vernal swales. Beneath vernal pools lies either bedrock or a hard clay layer in the soil that helps keep water in the pool.

Wetland. An area inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency sufficient to support vegetation types adapted to wet soil conditions. Note that within the study area, presence of wetland soils, vegetation, or wetted area is generally sufficient to characterize an area as a wetland. Wetlands in the study area include vernal pools, ponds, streams and marshes.

Wildland-urban interface. The area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland (University of Wisconsin n.d.).

Wildlife Corridor. A natural corridor, such as an undeveloped ravine, a creek or a habitat area, that is frequently used by wildlife to travel from one area to another.

Xeric. Dry or desert-like.