



STATE OF CALIFORNIA • NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Charlton H. Bonham, Director

Central Region

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 14 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

August 14, 2023

Jose Valenzuela

Supervising Planner

City of Fresno - Planning and Development Department

2600 Fresno St, Room 3043

Fresno, California 93721

**Subject: Costco Commercial Center Project (Project)
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
State Clearinghouse No. 2021100443**

Dear Jose Valenzuela :

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code. While the comment period may have ended, CDFW would appreciate it if you would still consider our comments.

After reviewing the provided CEQA document, CDFW concurs with the biological resources related analyses and measures proposed in the DEIR and recommends that all such measures in the DEIR be carried forward into the Final EIR. CDFW has determined that most of the biological resource mitigation measures as currently documented in the DEIR are sufficient for mitigation of potential project related impacts to listed species. Please note that take of any species listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) would be unauthorized if an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) was not acquired in advance of such actions. It is recommended to consult with CDFW before any ground disturbing activities

City of Fresno – Planning and Development Department
Jose Valenzuela, Supervising Planner
Page 2

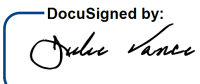
commence and to obtain an ITP if take of CESA listed species cannot be avoided.

Mitigation Measure 3.5-1b states surveys will be done for Swainson's Hawk, white-tailed kite, and other raptors. CDFW recommends surveys be conducted by a qualified biologist with knowledge of SWHA natural history and behaviors, following the survey methods developed by the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SWHA TAC 2000).

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Fresno in identifying and mitigating the Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Marquez, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, or by electronic mail at Jaime.Marquez@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

FA83F09FE08945A...
Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

ec: State.Clearinghouse
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City of Fresno – Planning and Development Department
Jose Valenzuela, Supervising Planner
Page 3

REFERENCES

Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (SWHA TAC). 2000.
Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting
Surveys in California's Central Valley. Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory
Committee.