



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Central Region  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California 93710  
(559) 243-4005  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



February 28, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Feb 28 2024**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

McKencie Perez, MPA, Senior Planner  
City of Clovis, Department of Planning and Development Services  
1033 Fifth Street  
Clovis, California 93612  
(559) 324-2310  
[McKencieP@cityofclovis.com](mailto:McKencieP@cityofclovis.com)

**Subject: Vista Ranch Project, General Plan Amendment (GPA) 2023-004, 005, 006  
Early Consultation (CON)  
State Clearinghouse No. 2023100508**

Dear McKencie Perez:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received an Early Consultation (CON) from the City of Clovis for the above-referenced Project, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

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, 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.

After reviewing the CON notice, CDFW has determined that the previous Notice of Preparation (NOP) letter dated November 16, 2023 (November 2023 NOP), which was prepared for the entirety of the Vista Ranch Project and includes the GPA areas being considered within this CON, adequately identifies the species that could potentially be impacted by Project activities. The species identified within the November 2023 NOP letter include, but are not limited to, the federally threatened (FT) and State threatened (ST) California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense* pop. 1); the ST Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*); the State candidate for listing as endangered (SCE) Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*); the State species of special concern (SSC) American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*); the SSC and Federally proposed threatened (FPT) western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*); and the SSC western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*).

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<sup>1</sup> CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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CDFW recommends that all measures identified in the November 2023 NOP be included within the CEQA document for this Project.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to CNDDDB. The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: [CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov). The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.


## FILING FEES

If it is determined that the Project has the potential to impact biological resources, an assessment of filing fees will be necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Clovis 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 Kelley Nelson, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 580-3194, or by electronic mail at [Kelley.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kelley.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Julie A. Vance  
Regional Manager

ec: State Clearinghouse  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
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