



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



July 8, 2024

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City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department, Planning Division  
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**Subject: Vesting Tentative Tract Map 7427 (Project)  
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)  
State Clearinghouse Number: 2024060845**

Dear Courtney Camps:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) from the City of Bakersfield 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 Vesting Tentative Tract Map 7427 (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.

### **CDFW ROLE**

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (*Id.*, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

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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.

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 2

CDFW is also submitting comments as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW’s lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in “take” as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), related authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code will be required.

**Nesting Birds:** CDFW has jurisdiction over actions with potential to result in the disturbance or destruction of active nest sites or the unauthorized take of birds. Fish and Game Code sections that protect birds, their eggs and nests include, sections 3503 (regarding unlawful take, possession or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird), 3503.5 (regarding the take, possession or destruction of any birds-of-prey or their nests or eggs), and 3513 (regarding unlawful take of any migratory nongame bird).

**Unlisted Species:** Species of plants and animals need not be officially listed as Endangered, Rare, or Threatened (E, R, or T) on any State or Federal list to be considered E, R, or T under CEQA. If a species can be shown to meet the criteria for E, R, or T, as specified in the CEQA Guidelines section 15380, CDFW recommends it be fully considered in the environmental analysis for the Project.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

**Proponent:** Laut Berkshire, LLC

**Objective:** LAV//Pinnacle, representing Laut Berkshire, LLC (property owner), is proposing to subdivide 21.54 acres into 77 single-family residential lots, and one sump lot.

**Location:** The proposed Project will be located at the southwest corner of Chase Avenue and Daytona Drive in Bakersfield, California. The Project site occurs in Section 20 of Township 29 South, Range 29 East of the San Bernadino Base Meridian on Assessor’s Parcel Number 533-012-02.

**Timeline:** N/A

## **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

CDFW offers the following comments and recommendations to assist the City of Bakersfield in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project’s significant, or potentially significant, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions may also be included to improve the CEQA document prepared for this Project.

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 3

The MND and aerial imagery of the Project boundary and its surroundings show the Project site and the lands to the west and south of the Project site are largely composed of non-native annual grasslands interspersed with valley saltbush scrub. The lands to the north and east of the Project site consist of a residential development. A drainage/stream feature bisects the middle of the Project site from east to west and a retention basin is located on the south-east corner of the Project site. Dirt roads transect the Project site and are used by off-road vehicles, horseback riders, and pedestrians.

Based on a review of the Project Description, aerial imagery, the surrounding habitat, and California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) records (CDFW 2024), special-status species may be present at the Project site. These resources will need to be evaluated and addressed prior to any approvals that would allow ground-disturbing activities or land use changes. Special-status species that may occur on and be potentially impacted by the Project, include but are not limited to, the State and federally endangered Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*), the State and federally endangered and State fully-protected blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*; BNLL), the State candidate endangered Crotch's bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*; CBB), the State threatened and federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis* ssp. *mutica*; SJKF), the State threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*; SWHA), and the State Species of Special Concern American badger (*Taxidea taxus*; AMBA), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*; BUOW). CDFW also has concerns with potential impacts to migratory and non-migratory nesting birds and potential impacts to stream features that may be subject to CDFW's regulatory authorization pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

In order to adequately assess potential impacts to biological resources, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist perform a database search and other research of the Project site and vicinity, then conduct focused habitat assessments and/or focused biological surveys during the appropriate survey period(s) in order to determine whether any special-status species may be present within the Project site. CDFW recommends this initial work be documented and used to inform further efforts that may be needed thereafter, including the need for additional protocol surveys and/or the development of avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures. This information and analysis may then be used to consider the development of modified or new project alternatives to avoid and minimize potentially significant environmental impacts on the biological environment. This information is critical to make an informed decision during the CEQA process and to ensure Project compliance with CESA, Fish and Game Code, and other applicable State and federal laws and regulations.

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 4

## **Project Description**

Currently, the MND indicates that Project impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures. However, as currently drafted, the MND is not sufficiently clear and detailed to permit CDFW to conduct an adequate and effective review of potentially significant impacts to biological resources. Currently, CDFW is unclear if the MND would allow for ground disturbing activities; therefore, CDFW recommends the CEQA document prepared for this Project include a clear and detailed Project Description.

The CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, §15370) require mitigation measures to “avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate” those project impacts that are potentially significant. It is the responsibility of the Project proponent and the Lead Agency to ensure that mitigation measures listed in the MND are feasible, measurable, and implemented and enforced. Absent the measures in the MND meeting the CEQA Guidelines, CDFW does not concur that the impacts to biological resources and the species listed in this letter can be reduced to less than significant. If significant environmental impacts will occur as a result of Project implementation and cannot be mitigated to less than significant levels, a MND would not be appropriate. Alternatively, when an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared, the specifics of mitigation measures may be deferred, provided the lead agency commits to mitigation and establishes performance standards for implementation. CDFW recommends that the CEQA document provide quantifiable and enforceable measures as needed that will reduce impacts to less than significant levels.

## **Bakersfield Cactus**

Plants listed pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, CESA, and the Native Plant Protection Act, as well as other special status plants such as California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) may occur within the Project site, such as the federal and State endangered Bakersfield cactus. According to the CNDDDB (2024), multiple known populations of Bakersfield cactus occur approximately on and around the Project site. Based on aerial imagery and a review of the MND, the Project site consists of non-native annual grassland habitat interspersed with valley saltbush scrub, which may support the species. Special-status plant species are threatened with habitat loss and habitat fragmentation resulting from development, vehicle and foot traffic, and introduction of non-native plant species (CNPS 2018), all of which may be unintended direct and indirect impacts of the Project. Therefore, Project activities may potentially have significant indirect, direct, and cumulative impacts to populations of the species mentioned above if present in and/or adjacent to the Project site.

CDFW recommends that the Project site be surveyed for State listed and special-status plants by a qualified botanist following the “Protocols for surveying and evaluating impacts to special status native plant populations and sensitive natural communities”

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 5

(CDFW 2018). This protocol, which is intended to maximize detectability, includes identification of reference populations to facilitate the likelihood of field investigations occurring during the appropriate floristic period.

If Bakersfield cactus or other special-status plants are detected, CDFW recommends special-status plant species be avoided whenever possible by delineating and observing a no-disturbance buffer of at least 50 feet from the outer edge of the plant population(s) or specific habitat type(s) required by State listed and special-status plant species.

If buffers for special-status plants cannot be maintained, then consultation with CDFW is warranted to determine appropriate minimization and mitigation measures for impacts to special-status plant species. If State-listed plant species are identified during botanical surveys, consultation with CDFW is warranted to determine if the Project can avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization would need to occur through issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) by CDFW to comply with CESA and/or Fish and Game Code section 1900 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 786.9, subdivision (b).

### **Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard**

BNLL is a federal and State endangered and fully-protected species and is known to occur less than 1 mile south of the Project site (CNDDDB 2024).

CDFW has jurisdiction over fully-protected species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish, pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050 and 5515. Fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except as follows:

- Take is for necessary scientific research,
- Efforts to recover a fully protected, endangered or threatened species, live capture, and relocation of a bird species for the protection of livestock, or
- They are a covered species whose conservation and management is provided for in a Natural Community Conservation Plan (Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050 and 5515).

Additionally, specific types of infrastructure projects may be eligible for an ITP for unavoidable impacts to fully protected species if certain conditions are met (Fish and Game Code section 2081.15).

Therefore, BNLL protocol surveys are recommended on the entirety of the Project site, which provides potential BNLL habitat. Suitable BNLL habitat includes all areas of grassland and shrub habitat that contains required habitat elements, such as small mammal burrows and open areas for basking. BNLL are also known to utilize open

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 6

space patches between suitable habitat features including disturbed sites and unpaved access roadways.

CDFW recommends a qualified biologist(s) conduct protocol surveys in accordance with the “Approved Survey Methodology for the Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard” (CDFW 2019) to detect any BNLL that may occur on the Project site. These surveys, the parameters of which were designed to optimize detectability, must be conducted within one year from the start of Project activities to reasonably assure CDFW that take of this fully-protected species will not occur as a result of Project implementation. It is important to note that protocol surveys must be conducted on multiple dates during late spring, summer, and fall, of the same survey season, and that within these time periods there are specific date, temperature, and time parameters which must be adhered to; as a result, protocol surveys for this species are not synonymous with 30-day “pre-construction” surveys often recommended for other wildlife species.

In addition, CDFW recommends: that all suitable burrows within and adjacent to potential habitat for BNLL be avoided by a minimum distance of 50 feet in all areas where ground-disturbing Project activities will occur; that an appropriate number of qualified biologists are present during all ground-disturbing Project activities to ensure that BNLL above ground are avoided by a minimum distance of 50 feet; and that any individual that may enter the Project activity area be allowed to leave unobstructed of its own accord. If BNLL is detected, consultation with CDFW would be warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take.

### **Crotch’s Bumble Bee**

According to the CNDDDB, the State candidate endangered CBB has been historically recorded to occur approximately 8 miles northwest of the Project site near Oildale, California, 4 miles north of the Project site near Hart Memorial Park, and within the City of Bakersfield. CBB was once common throughout most of central and southern California. However, it now appears to be absent from most of their range, especially in the central portion of its historic range within California’s Central Valley (Hatfield et al. 2015). Analyses by the Xerces Society et al. (2018) suggest there have been sharp declines in relative abundance by 98% and persistence by 80% over the last ten years. Additionally, CBB are known to inhabit areas of grasslands and scrub that contain requisite habitat elements for nesting, such as small mammal burrows and bunch/thatched grasses. According to aerial photography some of these elements are present on the Project site, as a result, CBB have the potential to be present on the Project site, and CDFW has jurisdiction over this species under CESA.

CDFW recommends a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment to determine if the Project site or its immediate vicinity contain habitat suitable to support CBB. Potential nesting sites, which include all small mammal burrows, perennial bunch grasses, thatched annual grasses, brush piles, old bird nests, dead trees, and hollow

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 7

logs would need to be documented as part of the assessment. If potentially suitable habitat is identified, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for CBB, and their requisite habitat features following the methodology outlined in the Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species (CDFW 2023).

If CBB is detected, then CDFW recommends that all small mammal burrows and thatched/bunch grasses be avoided by a minimum of 50 feet to avoid take and potentially significant impacts. If ground-disturbing activities will occur during the overwintering period (October through February), consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement Project activities and avoid take. Any detection of CBB prior to or during Project implementation warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take.

If take cannot be avoided, CDFW recommends acquiring an ITP pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(b), prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities.

### **San Joaquin Kit Fox**

Bakersfield is home to a significant urban population of the federally endangered and State threatened SJKF, with multiple recorded occurrences in the CNDDDB (CDFW 2024). While the Project may not contain typical native habitat for SJKF, it is within a geographic area occupied by SJKF. In addition, any Project related ground-disturbing activity could attract SJKF. The urban population of SJKF has also been recorded to utilize anthropogenically altered habitats while maintaining a robust population (Cypher 2013). As a result, the Project may result in impacts to SJKF and any take of SJKF without appropriate take authorization would be a violation of Fish and Game Code.

In addition to native habitats, SJKF can den in rights-of-way, vacant lots, under buildings, and other urban habitats and populations can fluctuate over time. It is important to note that SJKF populations are known to fluctuate and a negative finding from biological surveys at any given time does not necessarily demonstrate absence of SJKF on a site. In addition, SJKF may be attracted to both construction materials (pipes, etc.) and construction footprints due to the type and level of activity (excavation, etc.) and the loose, friable soils that are created as a result of intensive ground disturbance.

CDFW recommends assessing presence/absence of SJKF by conducting den surveys following the USFWS' "Standardized recommendations for protection of the San Joaquin kit fox prior to or during ground disturbance" (USFWS 2011), and implementing no-disturbance buffers around den sites, as described in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service document (USFWS 2011). Specifically, CDFW recommends conducting these den surveys over the entirety of the Project site. CDFW also recommends repeating those surveys, regardless of the results, no less than 14-days and no more

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 8

than 30-days prior to the beginning of ground and/or vegetation disturbing activities, unless the Project pursues and obtains an ITP. Finally, CDFW recommends a qualified biologist conduct on-site worker awareness training and inspect all construction materials for SJKF before use. Any pits or trenches created should be sloped or covered to prevent inadvertent capture or entrapment (take).

SJKF detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take of SJKF, or, if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire ITP pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b), prior to initiating or resuming (whichever applies) ground-disturbing activities.

### **Swainson's Hawk**

According to the CNDDDB, the State threatened SWHA occurs in and around the City of Bakersfield. Given the proximity to known SWHA occurrences 5 miles south in the City of Bakersfield, potential nesting trees on parcels directly adjacent to and on the Project site, and the fact that SWHA exhibit high nest-site fidelity year after year in the San Joaquin Valley (CDFW 2016), SWHA have the potential to be present near the Project site, and CDFW has jurisdiction over this species under CESA.

The Project as proposed may involve noise, groundwork, and movement of workers that could affect nests and has the potential to result in nest abandonment, significantly impacting local nesting SWHA. Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for SWHA, potential significant impacts that may result from Project activities include nest abandonment, and reduced nesting success (loss or reduced health or vigor of eggs or young) from loss of foraging habitat. CDFW recommends that the MND prepared for this Project address potential impacts to SWHA by including both mitigation for loss of foraging habitat and appropriate avoidance and minimization measures resulting from an analysis of potential impacts to nesting habitat beginning with protocol surveys as described below.

CDFW recommends compensation for the loss of SWHA foraging habitat as described in the Staff Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks (CDFW 1994). CDFW recommends that mitigation for habitat loss occur within a minimum distance of 10 miles from known nest sites. CDFW has the following recommendations based on the Staff Report:

- For projects within 1 mile of an active nest tree, a minimum of one acre of habitat management (HM) land for each acre of development is advised.
- For projects within 5 miles of an active nest but greater than 1 mile, a minimum of 0.75 acres of HM land for each acre of development is advised.
- For projects within 10 miles of an active nest tree but greater than 5 miles from an active nest tree, a minimum of 0.5 acres of HM land for each acre of development is advised.



Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 9

SWHA are known to travel up to 18 miles to forage (Estep 1989). Any SWHA in known nesting trees within that range may utilize the Project site for foraging. Therefore, CDFW recommends protocol surveys for SWHA 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).

Due to the proximity of potential nesting trees on and near the Project site, if the initial protocol surveys do not detect nesting SWHA, CDFW recommends that protocol surveys be conducted again by a qualified biologist within the survey season immediately prior to Project construction. CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 0.5-mile be delineated around active nests until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. If an active SWHA nest is detected during surveys and a 0.5-mile buffer is not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081, subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.

### **State Species of Special Concern**

BUOW and AMBA have the potential to occur within the Project site. The Project site, and its vicinity, may support requisite habitat elements for these species.

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment to determine if the Project site or the immediate vicinity contains potential habitat for the species mentioned above. If potential habitat is present, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for the applicable species and their requisite habitat features to evaluate potential impacts resulting from ground and vegetation disturbance.

Avoidance whenever possible is encouraged via delineating and observing a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around the entrances of burrows that can provide refuge for BUOW and AMBA.

CDFW recommends assessing presence/absence of BUOW by having a qualified biologist conduct surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium's Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines (CBOC 1993) and CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). Specifically, if suitable habitat is present at an individual Project site, CBOC and CDFW's Staff Report suggest three or more surveillance surveys conducted during daylight hours with each visit occurring at least three weeks apart during the peak breeding season (April 15 to July 15), when BUOW are most detectable.

If BUOW are detected, CDFW recommends no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012), be implemented prior to and

Courtney Camps  
 City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
 July 8, 2024  
 Page 10

during any ground-disturbing activities. Specifically, CDFW’s Staff Report recommends that impacts to occupied burrows be avoided in accordance with the following table unless a qualified biologist approved by CDFW verifies through non-invasive methods that either: 1) the birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.

Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance		
		Low	Med	High
Nesting sites	April 1-Aug 15	200 m*	500 m	500 m
Nesting sites	Aug 16-Oct 15	200 m	200 m	500 m
Nesting sites	Oct 16-Mar 31	50 m	100 m	500 m

\* meters (m)

If BUOW are found within these recommended buffers and avoidance is not possible, it is important to note that according to the Staff Report (CDFG 2012), exclusion is not a take avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and is considered a potentially significant impact under CEQA. However, if necessary, CDFW recommends that burrow exclusion be conducted by qualified biologists and only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance. CDFW recommends replacement of occupied burrows with artificial burrows at a ratio of 1 burrow collapsed to 1 artificial burrow constructed (1:1) as mitigation for the potentially significant impact of evicting BUOW. BUOW may attempt to colonize or re-colonize an area that will be impacted; thus, CDFW recommends ongoing surveillance, at a rate that is sufficient to detect BUOW if they return.

### **Nesting birds**

CDFW encourages that Project ground-disturbing activities occur during the bird non-nesting season; however, if ground-disturbing or vegetation-disturbing activities must occur during the nesting season (February 1st through September 15th), the Project applicant is responsible for ensuring that implementation of the Project does not result in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or relevant Fish and Game Code sections as referenced above.

To evaluate Project-related impacts on nesting birds, CDFW recommends that a general habitat assessment for nesting birds be conducted. Depending on the results of that assessment, CDFW further recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance to maximize the probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected. CDFW also recommends that surveys cover a sufficient area around the Project site to identify nests and determine their status. A sufficient area

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 11

means any area potentially affected, either directly or indirectly, by the Project. In addition to direct impacts (i.e., nest destruction), noise, vibration, and movement of workers or equipment could also affect nests. CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist establish a behavioral baseline of all identified nests. Once Project activities begin, CDFW recommends having a qualified biologist continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the Project. If behavioral changes occur, CDFW recommends halting the work causing that change and consulting with CDFW for additional avoidance and minimization measures.

If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or on-site parental care for survival. Variance from these no-disturbance buffers is possible when there is a compelling biological or ecological reason to do so, such as when the Project site would be concealed from a nest site by topography. CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist advise and support any variance from these buffers and notify CDFW in advance of implementing a variance.

### **Lake and Streambed Alteration**

The MND notes that a drainage feature bisects the Project site from east to west. Based on a review of aerial imagery, it appears that this feature may be subject to CDFW's regulatory authority pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may (a) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (b) substantially change or use any material from the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake (including the removal of riparian vegetation); (c) deposit debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake. "Any river, stream, or lake" includes those that are ephemeral, intermittent, or episodic, as well as those that are perennial and may include those that are highly modified such as canals.

CDFW is required to comply with CEQA in the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement; therefore, if the MND approved for the Project does not adequately describe the Project and its impacts to lakes or streams, a subsequent CEQA analysis may be necessary for LSA Agreement issuance.

For information on notification requirements, please refer to CDFW's website (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>) or contact CDFW staff in the Central Region Lake and Streambed Alteration Program at (559) 243-4593 or [R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:R4LSA@wildlife.ca.gov).

Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 12

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment to assist the City of Bakersfield in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Marquez, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 580-3200, or by electronic mail at [Jaime.Marquez@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Jaime.Marquez@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Acting For Julie A. Vance  
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Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 13

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Courtney Camps  
City of Bakersfield – Development Services Department  
July 8, 2024  
Page 14

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Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, Defenders of Wildlife, and Center for Food Safety. 2018. A petition to the state of California fish and game commission to list the Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), Franklin's bumble bee (*Bombus franklini*), Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), and western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis occidentalis*) as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. October 2018.