



STANDARD BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

Development Code Division IV (Ordinance #1556)

The following report format **must** be used for the preparation of biological reports. The omission of any of the following data in the **INFORMATION SUMMARY** will be grounds for the rejection of the biological report.

I. INFORMATION SUMMARY

1. Date report prepared
 2. Project site location (include address and U.S.G.S. - Section, Township, Range)
 3. Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN) **and** related planning file numbers (i.e. Parcel Map #, Use Permit #, etc)
 4. Owner/Applicant Address, Phone/Fax number and email address
 5. Principal Investigators Address, Phone/Fax number and email address
 6. Report Summary: state conclusions, noting rare/endangered/threatened, unique species, or sensitive resources pursuant to GP Policy Goal NR5.
 7. Name of person preparing report.
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II. PROJECT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

- Describe the proposed project and property, including the (1) size, (2) topographic characteristics, (3) water resources, (4) soil types, (5) weather conditions, and (5) land uses on the property and in the vicinity, up to a radius of one-quarter mile. It is expected that the level of detail and the extent of the study will be proportioned to the scale of the proposed project, the diversity of the site, total species distributions and the significance of the habitats impacted by the project.
 - Include a map of the project site and surrounding area from the USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle series with the project site clearly outlined.
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III. METHODOLOGY

Briefly describe the survey methods used in preparing the report and show on an appropriately scaled map the location of sample points, transects, and any additional areas surveyed in the vicinity of the project. Please include total person-hours spent on field surveys; time of year as appropriate to identify species.

IV. RESULTS

Describe at length the botanical and zoological resources of the project.

- Include a discussion of the existing plant associations, including disturbed areas, and list the dominate (indicator) species of each vegetative association.
- **Include a biological resources map (at least one copy must be on a project plan map)** showing the location and distribution of plant species occurring on the site and the relationship to the development proposal. Provide the location of wetlands, 33% canopy closure, location of perennial or ephemeral stream and riparian areas, and landmark oaks. Project setting and mapping of sensitive resources must be submitted on a map of sufficient detail to show the proposed project footprint and total area of construction and roadways.
- Indicate the extent of each plant association or habitat type on the property in acres and show it on the biological resources map(s). If hectares are used, a conversion to acres must be included, whether in parenthesis or in footnotes.
- Include quantitative and transect data when appropriate.
- Include in the report a complete listing of all plants, including all species of concern observed.
- Indicate the plant association or habitat in which each species was found and which of those species are not native to the area.
- If a plant species of concern¹ was once or could be expected to be present, but was not observed, indicate where the suitable soils and habitat are located on the site. Reintroduction of the species may be a valid mitigation recommendation.
- Provide a list of all vertebrate species observed or detected which are either directly or indirectly impacted by the project.
- Indicate estimates of population sizes of individual species detected or observed during the field survey. Captive/release studies are not necessarily required.
- Note indications of breeding activity, (i.e., nests, dens, etc) on the property and include known home range data based on the most recent data available.
- The occurrence of each species should be related to the vegetation associations or wildlife habitat types on or in the immediate vicinity of the property, whenever possible.
- **Indicate the relative amounts, or extent, of each wildlife habitat type occurring on the site in acres and show it on the biological resources map(s).** If hectares are used, a conversion to acres must be included, whether in parenthesis or in footnotes. Include on the biological resources map(s), habitat type relationships to the development proposal.
- Only site-specific lists are acceptable; however, listing or particular expected species, especially raptors, or listed species, may be appropriate, but their absence should be explained (migratory, aestivating, nocturnal species, etc.)

¹Species of concern shall be any unique, rare, endangered, or threatened species. It shall include species used to delineate wetlands and riparian corridors. It shall also include any hosts, perching, or food plants used by any animals listed as rare, endangered, threatened or candidate species by either State, or Federal regulations or for Yuba County as listed by the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB). The NDDB is at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB>.

- Include a list of and discuss invertebrates in special situations, i.e., rare, threatened or endangered species, and unusual species concentrations, or where there is a unique or symbiotic relationship between an invertebrate and vertebrate, plant species or special habitat, such as vernal pools.
 - If a species reported on the property is considered a rare or unusual occurrence in the region, verify its identification with a specific description or by photography.
 - Include a copy of a California Native Plant Society Plant Field Survey Form and/or a Natural Community Field Survey form when unusual communities are found.
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V. RARE, ENDANGERED OR SENSITIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

The report shall contain:

- A separate discussion of any species occurring on or using areas directly or indirectly affected by the project, which are recognized by a government agency or conservation or scientific group as being potentially depleted, depleted, declining, rare, locally endemic, endangered, or threatened, and/or any species nominated for or on a state or federal rare, endangered, or threatened species list.
 - o The plant species discussed shall be based on the California Native Plant Society list (Special Publication No. 1, 4th ed. Smith, 1988) or more recent data.
 - o For each such species, indicate the number of individuals observed on site during this survey and immediately off-site.
 - o Include an estimate of the total population present both on and off-site.
 - o **Identify their exact location(s) on the vegetation map.**
 - o Discuss the site suitability for each such species.
 - o If the species are not found on site, discuss the reasons for their absence, particularly if the survey was done when the organism would not be evident or identifiable.
 - o Based on the most recent data available, discuss the known growth, food and range requirements of the species, including required soil types, exposure, elevation, availability of water, season, etc.
 - o Confirm the identification of rare, endangered, or threatened plant species, by a species description or photography.
 - Discuss the importance of rare plant or animal populations listed on the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database for Yuba County (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB>) with consideration of nearby populations and species distributions.
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VI. IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

List all direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project.

- Include an elevation of the perceived cumulative biological impacts associated with the project.

For example, for impacts to raptor foraging habitat, include an analysis of the impact at buildout of approved and proposed developments, on the suitable habitat of the project site.

- List and discuss all probable impacts to threatened, rare, endangered or unique species either listed or proposed by a Federal or State agency, or the California Native Plant Society, both onsite and within an area of one quarter mile radius from the project location.
- The consultant shall recommend an appropriate program to adequately mitigate the impacts of the project proposal, based on CEQA guidelines. The types of mitigation for environmental impacts as listed in CEQA (Section 15370) are listed below in the sequence in which they should be considered. For example, when a proposed mitigation is based on the third measure, the report must state why the previous two measures were rejected.
 - o Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action.
 - o Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action.
 - o Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the impacted environment.
 - o Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the project.
 - o Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.
- Tabulate by impact all feasible mitigation measures proposed to reduce the level of impact and explain how such measures will be successful. Any mitigation measures regarding the onsite protection of critical resources must be accompanied by a map of appropriate scale, indicating the location of the sensitive resource(s), appropriate buffer areas and the boundaries of areas in which the mitigation proposals will be implemented. Monitoring measures are required for each mitigation proposal under AB 3180.
- Indicate, in the recommendations section of the report, areas of the project site where additional investigations (such as seasonal flora surveys or trapping studies) should be completed prior to considering a project for approval.
- Prior to project approval, should the site be modified by grading or otherwise disturbed and such activity results in the loss of sensitive species or their habitats as identified in the biological reports, Yuba County Staff shall be notified, and such action shall be considered cause for denial of the proposal; however, if the damage can be repaired, a restoration plan may be required.

VII. REFERENCES, ETC.

The report shall include:

- A bibliography,
- References cited,
- Persons contacted,
- California Natural Diversity Database search results, and
- Current photos of the site, taken at the time of report preparation, clearly indicating the extant condition of the land and land uses with the location of the site clearly indicated.

VIII. CERTIFICATION

The report must include the certification statement as shown below:

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>DATE: _____ SIGNED: _____</p>
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