

APPENDIX H

Special-Status Wildlife Species with the Potential to Occur in the
Hidden Falls Project Area and its Vicinity

**Special-Status Wildlife Species With Potential to Occur
in the Hidden Falls Regional Park Project Area and Vicinity**

Species	Status ¹		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
	USFWS	DFG		
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	---	Elderberry shrubs, typically in riparian habitats.	None; there are no elderberry shrubs present in the project area.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T	---	Vernal pools in valley and foothill grasslands.	None; there are no vernal pools present in the project area.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <i>Lepidurus Packardii</i>	E	---	Vernal pools in valley and foothill grasslands.	None; there are no vernal pools present in the project area.
Fish				
Central Valley fall/late fall–run chinook salmon ESU <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Essential Fish Habitat designated; requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears in seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, and tributaries, and in the Delta	Occurs in the lower Sacramento River, the ESC/NCC, and Coon Creek. Unlikely to pass waterfalls and access the project reach.
Central Valley steelhead DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	---	Critical Habitat designated; requires cold, freshwater streams with suitable gravel for spawning; rears in seasonally inundated floodplains, rivers, and tributaries, and in the Delta	Occurs in the lower Sacramento River, the ESC/NCC, and Coon Creek
Amphibians				
California red-legged frog <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T	Species of Special Concern	Riparian and slow-water rivers and lakes with emergent aquatic vegetation.	Could occur; Several cattle stock ponds and freshwater marshes in the southwest section of the project area provide suitable habitat.
Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Perennial rocky streams in a wide range of deciduous and coniferous habitats; rarely found far from permanent water.	Could occur; Coon Creek and other shallow, perennial drainages with cobble provide suitable habitat.
Western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Vernal pools in upland with burrows and other below- ground refuge.	Unlikely to occur; there are no vernal pools present in the project area.
Reptiles				
Northwestern pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation.	Known to occur; surveys conducted in 2005 confirm presence along Coon Creek.
Birds				
Cooper’s hawk <i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Typically inhabits oak savannah, woodlands and open grassland habitats.	Likely to occur; suitable foraging and nesting habitat present in the project area in oak woodlands.

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Sharp-shinned hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Nests and forages in woodlands but may occur in the more open savannah woodland type habitats such as blue oak woodland and blue oak – foothill pine.	Could occur; suitable foraging and nesting habitat present in the project area in oak woodlands.
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Forage in grasslands and agricultural fields; nest in freshwater marsh, riparian scrub, and other dense shrubs and herbs.	Unlikely to occur; marginal nesting and foraging habitat present in clusters of blackberry thickets in grassland openings, however this habitat is too separated from other regional locations with preferred habitat.
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	---	Species of Special Concern; Fully Protected	Forages over open shrub and grasslands; nests on cliffs or large rock outcrops.	Known to breed just outside of the park; suitable foraging and nesting habitat present in the project area in annual grasslands and oak woodlands.
Yellow-breasted chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Forages and nests in riparian thickets of willow, blackberry, wild grape, and other brushy tangles near watercourses.	Known to occur; foraging and nesting habitat present in the project area in patches of blackberry thickets along Coon Creek and surrounding freshwater marshes and stock ponds.
Yellow warbler <i>Dendroica petechia</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Nests in mesic, deciduous thickets, especially riparian; preferred habitat includes moist areas with dense insect prey populations.	Could occur; no suitable breeding habitat present in the project area; possible occurrence as a migrant.
White-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	---	Fully Protected	Forages in grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in isolated trees or small woodland patches.	Could occur; marginally suitable foraging habitat present in the project area in grasslands with scattered oak trees.
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	---	E	Forages in open water, roosts in adjacent trees; nests in tall, sturdy trees.	Unlikely to occur; no large, open water on the project area.
California black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis cotorniculus</i>	---	T	Forages and nests in freshwater marshes with shallow water and little to no fluctuation that are composed of dense stands of bulrushes and/or cattails.	Known to occur; suitable foraging and nesting habitat present in marshes along Coon Creek.
Loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Forages in grasslands and nests in shrubs and small trees.	Could occur; suitable foraging habitat present in the project area in grasslands with scattered oak trees.

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Mammals				
Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	---	Fully Protected	Forages in chaparral, rocky hillsides and riparian areas. Denning habitat includes rock crevices, boulder piles, underground cavities, or hollow trees.	Known to occur; suitable foraging habitat and denning habitat present in large (> 6" dbh) trees along Coon Creek.
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	---	Species of Special Concern	Lives in a wide variety of habitats but most common in mesic sites; typically roosts in caves, mines, and similar structures	Could occur; suitable habitat present in the project area in rock crevices within foothill pine-oak woodlands.
¹ Legal Status Definitions <u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):</u> T Federal Threatened E Federal Endangered <u>California Department of Fish and Game (DFG):</u> R Rare T Threatened E Endangered SSC Species of Special Concern				
Sources: CNDDB 2007; USFWS 2007; Hidden Falls Regional Park Initial Study 2006; CDFG 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.				

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle and vernal pool invertebrates and amphibians are not expected to occur in the project area because the project area lacks their required habitat. No elderberry shrub, vernal pool or other seasonal wetland exists within the project area.

Sacramento splittail and hardhead were historically present in the Cook Creek drainage, however, are unable to access the project area because of downstream natural and man-made barriers in the channel.

Some special-status bird species that occur in the region are not expected to occur within the project area due to lack of suitable habitat or habitat connectivity. These include tricolored blackbird and bald eagle. Tricolored blackbirds are not likely to occur because the marginal blackberry bramble breeding habitat is far removed from locations of other populations. Bald eagle is not likely to occur because there are no large, open water sites in the project area.