

APPENDIX I: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT



October 31, 2018

9635

Greg Tonello
Williams + Paddon Architects
2237 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 160
Roseville, California 95661

***Subject: Biological Resources Assessment for the Placer County Government Center
Master Plan Update in Placer County, California***

Dear Mr. Tonello:

This biological resources assessment describes the existing conditions for the Placer County Government Center site in Auburn, California (Figure 1). This report provides a preliminary assessment of the biological resources observed or potentially present on the site, potential constraints associated with development of the site, and related regulatory requirements.

The County is currently undertaking a planning process to update the Master Plan for the County's facilities and land at the Placer County Government Center. It is expected that development under the Master Plan update may involve demolition of existing structures, new construction, expansion of current facilities, and landscaping and hardscape improvements. Proposed development of the site and potential impacts to special-status species and/or biological resources are analyzed in the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to support preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Master Plan update. This report describes the project site, results of the biological reconnaissance survey, special-status biological resources present or potentially present on-site, a preliminary assessment of expected regulatory requirements related to biological resource impacts of the potential project, and potential constraints to development that may be posed by biological resources on the site.

1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The approximately 198-acre project site is located west of the City of Auburn and consists of five parcels: APNs 051-120-061-000, 051-120-010-000, 051-120-064-000, 051-120-065-000, and 051-120-066-000 (Figure 2). The site is located south of Bell Road, west of State Highway 49, north of Atwood Road and east of Deseret Drive (Figure 3). The site occurs in Section 32, Township 13 North, and Range 8 East of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Auburn 7.5' quadrangle. The approximate center of the site corresponds to 38°56'17.92" north latitude and 121°06'33.22" west longitude.

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The site is mostly developed, but there are several undeveloped lots that have been managed (mowed or disked) or have been turned into open space (such as parks or fields). Upon review of historical aerial photographs, many of these lots were previously developed with buildings constructed in the early 1940s. Several buildings were demolished between 2005 and 2008 as part of the County's implementation of the 2003 DeWitt Government Center Facility Plan (2003 – 2010), which was the prior Master Plan Update for the site.

Elevation varies from approximately 1,380 feet above mean sea level (MSL) to 1,425 feet above MSL. Vegetation consists mostly of a mixture of non-native annual grasses and weedy dicots, along with deciduous and evergreen tree species, as well as ornamental plantings and landscaping scattered throughout the site (described further in Section 4.1 below). There is a canal that runs north to south along the eastern boundary of the site that delivers water from the Ophir Canal. It runs underground south of the site.

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA 2015), three soil types are mapped within the project site and include: Auburn silt loam, 2-15% slopes; xerorthents, cut and fill areas; and Auburn-Rock outcrop complex, 2-30% slopes. Auburn silt loam soils are well-drained residuum weathered from metamorphic rock. Xerorthents consist of mechanically removed and mixed soil material in which horizons are no longer discernable. These soils are typically well-drained. Auburn-Rock outcrop complex soils are found on rocky side slopes of metamorphic rock foothills and are shallow and well drained (Figure 4).

2. PRELIMINARY SITE EVALUATION

2.1 Special-Status Species

Special-status biological resources present or potentially present were identified through a literature search using the following sources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Trust Resource Report (USFWS 2016); the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2016); and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants (CNPS 2016). Historical aerial photography was used to determine areas of the site that could potentially contain jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State.

The CNDDDB and CNPS records searches were conducted for the Auburn USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles. The CNPS records search included only those

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plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1 or 2. The IPaC Trust Resources Report was created from the USFWS database and included a 5-mile radius around the site.

Following these records searches, Dudek determined the potential for each species to occur within the site based on a review of vegetation communities and available land cover types observed on aerial imagery, species requirements for particular soils or elevations, as well as the known geographic range of each species. A table summarizing this information and the potential for each special status species to occur onsite is provided in Appendix A. Species were assumed to have no likelihood of occurrence if the site was clearly outside the known geographic range of the species or if there was no suitable habitat for the species on or adjacent to the site.

3. FIELD RECONNAISSANCE AND METHODS

A field assessment was conducted at the site on July 1, 2016 by Dudek biologist Lisa Achter. The field assessment included mapping vegetation communities and land cover types present within the approximately 180-acre site, evaluating potentially jurisdictional wetlands or waters, and further determining the potential for special-status species to occur within the project site.

3.1 Vegetation Community and Land Cover Mapping

The survey was conducted on foot to visually cover the entire site, using an aerial photograph with an overlay of the property boundary.

Vegetation communities and land covers were mapped on that aerial imagery during the site assessment, and observable biological resources including perennial plants and conspicuous wildlife (i.e., birds, mammals) commonly accepted as regionally sensitive by CDFW and USFWS were also recorded on the field map. The vegetation community and land cover mapping conducted follows the classifications described by Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf (2009). Section 4, Results, provides an overview of the resources identified during the field survey.

3.2 Flora

All plant species encountered during the field survey were identified and recorded directly into a field notebook. Common and scientific names for plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR, formerly CNPS List) follow the CNPS On-Line Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2016). A list of plant species observed during the field survey is presented in Appendix B. No special-status plant species were identified on the project site during the field survey.

3.3 Fauna

Wildlife species detected during the field survey by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs were recorded directly into a field notebook. The site was scanned with and without binoculars to aid in the identification of wildlife. In addition to species detected during the surveys, expected wildlife use of the site was determined by known habitat preferences of local species and knowledge of their relative distributions in the area. No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field survey.

3.4 Jurisdictional Wetlands

Dudek conducted an analysis of potentially jurisdictional waters and wetlands, reviewed current and historical aerial photography, and then identified potentially jurisdictional features based on review of aerial photographs and field observations. The analysis considers criteria by the following agencies:

- Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Act.
- Wetlands under the jurisdiction of CDFW, pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Subsequent to the preliminary analysis of potentially jurisdictional waters completed during the reconnaissance survey, a wetland delineation was performed by Dudek botanist Laura Burris and is provided under separate cover.

4. RESULTS

The following sections provide quantification of the biological resources present within the project site, including habitats and species.

4.1 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Four land cover types exist within the site (Figure 5). The majority of the site is considered developed/disturbed and consists of paved roads, parking areas, and buildings that make up the Placer County Government Center. Patches of native and non-native annual grassland that include

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native and non-native weedy species (ruderal vegetation) occur throughout the center and eastern portion of the site. The remaining acreage consists of blue oak woodland and ornamental landscaping. Several aquatic features also exist within the site boundary. These land cover types are described in more detail below.

Annual Grasslands. Annual grassland is present throughout approximately 17.36 acres of the site. Annual grassland within the site is dominated by a dense to sparse cover of annual, non-native grasses and forbs. Common species include brome (*Bromus* spp.), Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), barley (*Hordeum* spp.), filarees (*Erodium* spp.), and others. However, native species are also often present in this grassland, including bulbs, legumes, and some grasses, such as desert fescue (*Festuca microstachys*). Ruderal species are also often present in grasslands, especially along the margins of grasslands and in areas that have been historically disturbed. All of the grass species are dormant during the dry summer months.

Dominant species observed on-site within the grassland community included: wild oat, ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and soft brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*). Several other native and non-native species were also present, including black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*).

Blue Oak Woodland Alliance. Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) woodland alliance includes at least 50% canopy coverage by blue oak, with other hardwoods and conifers intermixed. The tree canopy is intermittent to continuous and the shrub layer is sparse to intermittent. This association is found in valley bottoms, foothills, and rocky outcrops, where the soils are shallow and moderately to excessively drained. It is typically found at elevations ranging from 300 to 6,200 feet.

This association was observed on the southwestern, northeastern and eastern portions of the site, totaling approximately 25.05 acres.

Developed/Disturbed. Developed/disturbed areas are those dominated by manmade structures or areas frequently managed by means of mowing, disking, etc. Within the project site, about 143.38 acres of developed/disturbed areas consist of roadways, government buildings, parking lots, empty lots, and storage areas. Vegetation in these areas is sparse to absent, consisting primarily of cultivated plants in planters.

Riparian/Aquatic. Riparian areas are described as the interface between land and a fresh water feature, such as a stream, river or wetland. They are generally characterized as containing hydrophitic plants such as cottonwood (*Populus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.) and sedges (*Carex* sp.). They are ecologically diverse and can contain wet meadows, brushy understory, and a sparse tree

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canopy. Because of this, they are often home to a wide range of flora and fauna. Approximately 6.35 acres within the project site are characterized as riparian/aquatic. Aquatic areas include canals and ponds described in Section 4.2.

4.2 Aquatic Habitats and Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

A wetland delineation was performed on August 10, 2016 by Dudek botanist Laura Burris, but has not yet been verified. The delineation and report are provided under separate cover. The delineation and report identify the following wetlands and other waters of the U.S. within the study area: three detention basins, the Ophir canal, two ephemeral drainages, two freshwater emergent wetlands, five seasonal wetlands, a vegetated swale and a small pond also exist within the site boundary, and the area surrounding the pond provides a relatively amount of riparian habitat. These features cover 4.54 acres and 2,063.00 linear feet. These are described in more detail below and in the jurisdictional delineation.

Ophir Canal

A single unlined canal runs through the western side of the study area along the perimeter directly adjacent to 1st Street for the majority of the project boundary. The canal flows above ground from Bell Road along 1st Street to Professional Road, where it goes underground until reemerging just south of Willow Creek Drive. The canal is approximately 1,832.33 linear feet within the study area and is approximately 8 feet wide at the OHWM and 16 feet wide at the top of the bank. The canal is classified as riverine by the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and has an established bed and bank. This canal has connectivity to other waterways above and below the study area, and therefore, is considered a relatively permanent water that drains to other waters of the United States and is potentially jurisdictional.

Ephemeral Drainage 01 (ED-01)

ED-01 is approximately 161.82 linear feet and leaves the study area through a culvert adjacent to SW-01 (Figure 5). It appears that the channel collects water during storm events and transports it off site. The channel is largely unvegetated except at its termination in SW-01, where there is a very sparse herbaceous layer. The channel is bounded by an intermittent riparian zone consisting of Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), and blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*). The channel at OHWM has an approximate width of 2.5 feet. The channel is approximately 7 feet wide at the top of the bank and tapers down to approximately 1 foot wide. Exposed roots, wracking, and undercut banks at the OHWM evidence flow. The substrate of the drainage was rocky and devoid of vegetation. At the time of the field survey, this feature was

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completely dry. Due to the likelihood that ED-01 eventually drains to a more permanent waterway downstream, this drainage is considered a non-relatively permanent water that drains to a water of the United States and is potentially jurisdictional.

Ephemeral Drainage 02 (ED-02)

ED-02 is approximately 68.85 linear feet and terminates in SW-01 (Figure 5). Similar to ED-01, it appears that the channel collects water during storm events and transports it off site. The channel is unvegetated except at its termination in SW-01, where there is a very sparse herbaceous layer. The OHWM for the channel was evidenced by an incised channel and is approximately 1 foot wide with a rocky substrate. At the time of the field survey, this feature was completely dry. This ephemeral drainage enters SW-01 and then a culvert, where it goes underground. Due to the likelihood that ED-02 drains to a more permanent waterway downstream, this drainage is considered a non-relatively permanent water that drains to a water of the United States and is potentially jurisdictional.

Wetlands

Five seasonal wetlands (SW-01 through SW-05) were identified within the study area. One is located in the northeastern part of the study area, and the other four are located within a previously developed lot near the center of the study area (Figure 5).

Seasonal Wetland 01 (SW-01)

SW-01 is approximately 0.02 acre and is fed by water runoff from ED-01 and ED-02. This wetland is primarily discernable based on the distinct vegetation differences between the mostly barren upland and the vegetated wetland, surface soil cracks visible within the boundary of the wetland, hydric soil, and clearly evident hydrologic features leading to the wetland. Dominant plant species found within this seasonal wetland include Canada horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), barnyardgrass (*Echinochloa crus-galli*), and Jersey cudweed (*Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*). Two soil pits were dug at this location: one upland and one wetland. The wetland sampling point (SP-01) contained evidence of hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology (refer to Appendix C). As mentioned previously, this seasonal wetland is found at the termination of both ED-01 and ED-02. This seasonal wetland drains into a culvert where the water then goes underground. Due to the likelihood that this feature drains to a more permanent waterway downstream, this drainage is considered a wetland adjacent to a non-relatively permanent water tributary to a water of the United States and is potentially jurisdictional.

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Seasonal Wetlands 02 through 05 (SW-02, SW-03, SW-04, and SW-05)

SW-02 through SW-05 are located within a vacant lot that used to contain buildings and now has constructed depressions where the buildings previously resided. The total combined acreage of these four seasonal wetlands is approximately 0.22 acre. The depressions and terraces within the vacant field are clearly visible; there is a distinct change in vegetation from the seasonal wetlands to the upland habitat surrounding them, and surface soil cracks were present within all four wetlands when surveyed. Due to the similarity of these features, a single wetland sampling point (SP-03) and a single upland sampling point (SP-04) were dug at this location and are representative of all four seasonal wetlands (Appendix C).

These seasonal wetlands were largely unvegetated during the field survey. What vegetation was present consisted of hyssop loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*) and pale spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*). The substrate in the seasonal wetlands was extremely rocky soil, likely fill from previous construction activity. The fill appeared to have acted as an impermeable layer, causing the seasonal wetlands to develop similar hydrology to vernal pools. In SW-03, the biologists observed a biotic crust of copepod carapaces, and in SW-04, biologists observed a layer of dried filamentous algae. The presence of aquatic invertebrates and a remnant algal mat indicates that these pools pond for sufficient lengths of time to support aquatic wildlife.

These seasonal wetlands present similarly to vernal pools, which are considered special aquatic sites as described in Section 230.3(q-1) of Section 404 of the CWA; therefore, these seasonal wetlands are potentially jurisdictional.

Vegetated Swale

A single vegetated swale that is 106.59 linear feet was observed in the center of the study area. There was no distinct change in vegetation from surrounding upland to swale, and it did not have a defined bed and bank. Plant species identified include Italian rye grass (*Festuca perennis*), Bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*), seaside barley (*Hordeum marinum*), and smooth cat's ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*). Water potentially pools in the swale during rain events, but not for sufficient periods for hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, or hydrology to form. Thus, this feature is likely not jurisdictional.

Detention Basins 01 through 03 (DB-01, DB-02, and DB-03)

Three detention basins are present within the study area (Figure 5). The first is located adjacent to 1st Street on the western side of the study area (DB-01). DB-01 is approximately 0.18 acre and has an outlet in the center. Vegetation within DB-01 was dominated by species similar to those

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described for California annual grassland. The grassland species were replaced by broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), willow (*Salix* sp.), and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) deeper into the basin near the outlet. Standing water was present in a channel at the deepest portion of the basin during the site survey. The deepest portion of the basin appears to hold water longer than the surrounding area and functions as a seasonal wetland.

DB-02 is 0.62 acres and is located below Willow Road in the southeastern portion of the study area. This detention basin has an outlet leading directly to the adjacent canal at the southeastern corner of the basin; an inlet at the northwestern corner of the basin appears to channel rainwater runoff from the surrounding area to the detention basin. A small area at the inlet pipe contains water for longer periods, functioning as a seasonal wetland. This area contained hydrophytic vegetation at the time of the survey, including tall flatsedge and analogue sedge (*Carex simulata*). The basin floor was dominated by Italian rye grass, and species identified by the outlet included Fremont cottonwood, coyotebrush (*Baccharis pilularis*), valley oak, and interior live oak. This location is characterized as a freshwater pond by the NWI and is classified as palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, and permanently flooded under the under the Cowardin code (USFWS 2016b); however, during the field survey, the location was not flooded and functioned as a detention basin and not a freshwater pond.

DB-03 is 0.12 acre and is located directly to the west of DB-02 across 1st Avenue in the southeastern portion of the study area. This detention basin was dominated by California annual grassland, with a single Fremont cottonwood in the center of the basin. There was a central drain in this detention basin that likely drains directly into the adjacent canal. This location is characterized as a freshwater pond by the NWI and is classified as palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, and permanently flooded under the Cowardin code (USFWS 2016b); however, during the field survey, the location was not flooded, did not contain hydrophytic vegetation, and functioned as a seasonally flooded detention basin and not a freshwater pond. This feature is unlikely to be considered jurisdictional.

DB-01 and DB-03 drain into the adjacent canal, which would make any wetlands associated with DB-01 and DB-03 potentially jurisdictional.

Freshwater Pond

A single freshwater pond is located in the southwestern corner of the study area south of B Avenue and is surrounded by undeveloped land on the southern and western sides and ongoing development on the eastern side. The pond is 2.95 acres and is classified under the Cowardin code as palustrine, unconsolidated bottom, and permanently flooded (USFWS 2016b). Water was present in this feature

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at the time of the field survey. Species observed included willow, Fremont cottonwood, broadleaf cattail, floating primrose-willow (*Ludwigia peploides*), and common rush (*Juncus effusus*). This pond appears to drain south into additional freshwater wetlands and eventually into riverine habitat; due to this connectivity, this pond is potentially jurisdictional.

Freshwater Emergent Wetland 01 (FEW-01)

FEW-01 is a linear wetland feature located north of the freshwater pond across B Avenue and consists of 147.75 linear feet within the study area. This wetland drains directly into the freshwater pond through a large culvert. Species observed included willow, Fremont cottonwood, broadleaf cattail, floating primrose-willow, and common rush. This wetland is classified in the NWI as freshwater emergent wetland and as palustrine, emergent, and temporarily flooded under the Cowardin code (USFWS 2016b). At the time of the field survey, the soil within the wetland was saturated and there was a minimal amount of standing water. This wetland drains directly into the freshwater pond below and is potentially jurisdictional.

Freshwater Emergent Wetland 02 (FEW-02)

FEW-02 is located in the southwestern portion of the study area directly below the freshwater pond; is 0.43 acre in size; and is classified as palustrine, scrub-shrub, and seasonally flooded under the Cowardin code (USFWS 2016b). The wetland is heavily forested and dominated by broadleaf cattail. The wetland appears to potentially drain south into additional wetlands identified by the NWI (USFWS 2016a). Due to the high likelihood of connectivity, this wetland is potentially jurisdictional. No work is anticipated to take place in the vicinity of this wetland for this project..

4.3 Plants and Wildlife

A total of 23 native and non-native species of vascular plants were recorded during the field survey, none of which are special-status species (Appendix B). Several unknown ornamental species were observed within the landscaping throughout the site.

Thirteen wildlife species were recorded on the site during the survey, none of which are special-status species. These were western scrub jay (*Apelocoma californica*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and sign of black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*) and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) was present throughout the site.

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4.4 Special-Status Species and Sensitive Resources

Special-Status Wildlife

Results of the CNDDDB and USFWS searches revealed seventeen listed or special-status species or species proposed for listing as rare, threatened, or endangered by either the CDFW or the USFWS. Of these, ten were removed from consideration due to lack of suitable habitat within or adjacent to the project site. These were valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), steelhead-Central Valley Distinct Population Segment (DPS, *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), and fisher (*Pekania pennanti*). No elderberry bushes or streams occur on site; therefore, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Delta smelt and steelhead would not be expected to occur. Furthermore, the site lacks suitable bodies of water for bald eagle, cliff habitat for bank swallow and conifer forest for fisher.

Three special-status species have moderate potential to occur on the project site: loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), and California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*). There is foraging and nesting habitat for loggerhead shrike, and Townsend's big-eared bat could utilize the buildings throughout the site for roosting and the entire site for foraging. California black rail could utilize the pond on the western portion of the site.

Three special-status species have a low potential to occur on the site. These are vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). If a wetland delineation determines vernal pools or wetlands exist on the site, they could be utilized by vernal pool tadpole shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp, although the management practices and level of disturbance in these areas likely precludes these species from occurring on the site. California red-legged frog (CRLF) surveys were conducted in 2004 and 2005 and none were observed on the project site; however, CRLF could potentially utilize the pond and the canal, but these features are of low quality for this species and it is unlikely California red-legged frog would occur on the site.

All raptor species found in California are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code 3503.5 and may use the site for nesting or foraging. Two raptor species were observed flying over the site or perched during the field survey: turkey vulture and red-shouldered hawk. Several suitable nesting trees are present on the site that could be utilized by a variety of raptor species, as well as other native bird species protected by the MBTA. Most bird species likely to nest on the site could also utilize the entire site for foraging.

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Special-Status Plants

Results of the CNDDDB, IPaC and CNPS searches revealed five special-status plant species that have potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site. All but one of the special-status plant species were removed from consideration because suitable habitat is not present on the site, or because the site is outside of the species' known range. Suitable habitat for Bogg's lake hedge-hyssop occurs around the pond in the western portion of the site, although no known occurrences of this species exist in the Auburn USGS quad, and therefore there is a low potential for this species to be found on the site. No special-status plants were observed during the field survey and no special-status plant species are expected to be present within the project site due to the generally disturbed nature and past management practices on the site.

Sensitive Resources and/or Habitats

The riparian habitat surrounding the pond on the western boundary of the site is considered sensitive by CDFW. According to the California Manual of Vegetation (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 2009), *Salix gooddingi* - *Populus fremontii* alliance has a Global rank of 4 and a State rank of 3 (G4 S3). Alliances ranked S1-S3 are considered special concern by CDFW and impacts to these habitats are considered during CEQA analysis. The site is not located within or adjacent to any preserve or conservation area.

4.5 Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife corridors are linear features that connect large patches of natural open space and provide avenues for animal movement. Habitat linkages are small patches that join larger blocks of habitat and help reduce the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation; they may be continuous habitat or discrete habitat islands that function as stepping stones for wildlife dispersal.

Because the project site is a non-linear feature and bound by existing roads and development, it has little value as a potential wildlife corridor or habitat linkage; however, it could potentially be used by mule deer and small urban-adapted mammals such as raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) and black-tailed jackrabbit for daily, local movement patterns.

5. POTENTIAL CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT

This section addresses potential impacts to special-status species or sensitive resources that could result from buildout of the Master Plan update. For purposes of this constraints analysis, it is assumed that the site's biological resource values would be fully removed by future development.

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5.1 Vegetation

Impacts from implementation of the Master Plan update would occur to all vegetation communities/land covers types present on the site. Project impacts to blue oak woodland vegetation community may require permits or other approvals through Placer County. Mitigation could require replacement of any protected oak trees lost due to project activities.

5.2 Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or State

As described in Section 4.2, drainage from the site appears to collect in several places by way of curb and gutter systems and natural drainages that all empty into storm drains throughout the site. Additionally, several depressions that indicate potential wetland features were observed in the empty vegetated lots throughout the site. A wetland delineation was performed on August 10, 2016 by Dudek botanist Laura Burris, but has not yet been verified. The delineation and report are provided under separate cover.

5.3 Special-Status Plants

No special-status plant species or suitable habitat for these species were observed on the site during the field survey; therefore, future construction should not impact special-status plants or constrain development of the site. As of the writing of this report, no impacts to the pond in the western portion of the site are anticipated; therefore impacts to riparian vegetation and potentially occurring special-status plants would not occur.

5.4 Special-Status Animals

No special-status animals were detected during this survey. However, all native birds in California are protected by the federal MBTA, and Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, which specifically protects raptors such as those observed at the site.

Dudek recommends a nesting bird survey be completed by a qualified biologist two weeks prior to construction during the nesting season (February 1-September 30) to determine if any native birds are nesting on or near the site (including a 300 foot buffer for raptors). If any active nests are observed during surveys, a suitable avoidance buffer will be determined and flagged by the qualified biologist based on species, location and planned construction activity. These nests would be avoided until the chicks have fledged and the nests are no longer active. Dudek also recommends removing any habitat (i.e., trees) outside of the breeding bird season.

All buildings throughout the site could potentially be occupied by Townsend's big-eared bat, which is a candidate threatened species and Species of Special Concern in California. Dudek

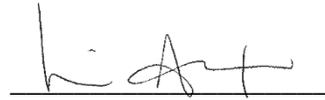
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recommends that a pre-construction bat survey be performed 30 days prior to construction by a qualified biologist to assess whether roosting bats occur in these areas of the project site. If roosting bats are detected, Dudek recommends consultation with CDFW to identify appropriate measures to be taken to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the species, which can include approval to exclude any bats potentially found on the project site before demolition of or work in the vicinity of any buildings.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call 530.217.8952 or email lachter@dudek.com.

Sincerely,



Lisa Achter
Wildlife Biologist

*Att.: Appendix A, Special-Status Species with Known or Potential Occurrence in the Vicinity
of the DeWitt Center Project in Auburn, California
Appendix B, List of Vascular Plant Species Recorded Within the Site*

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REFERENCES CITED

16 U.S.C. 703–712. Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended.

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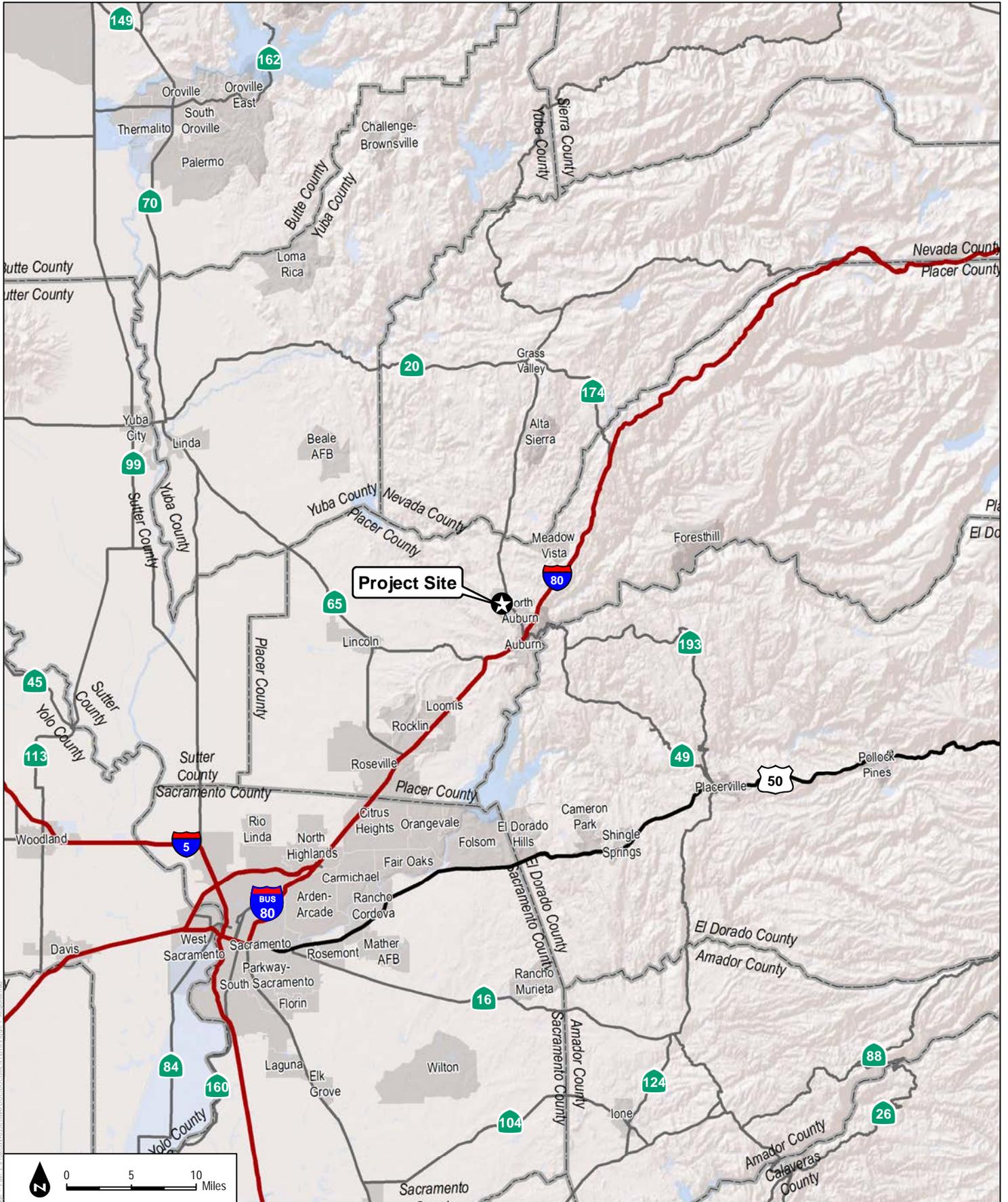
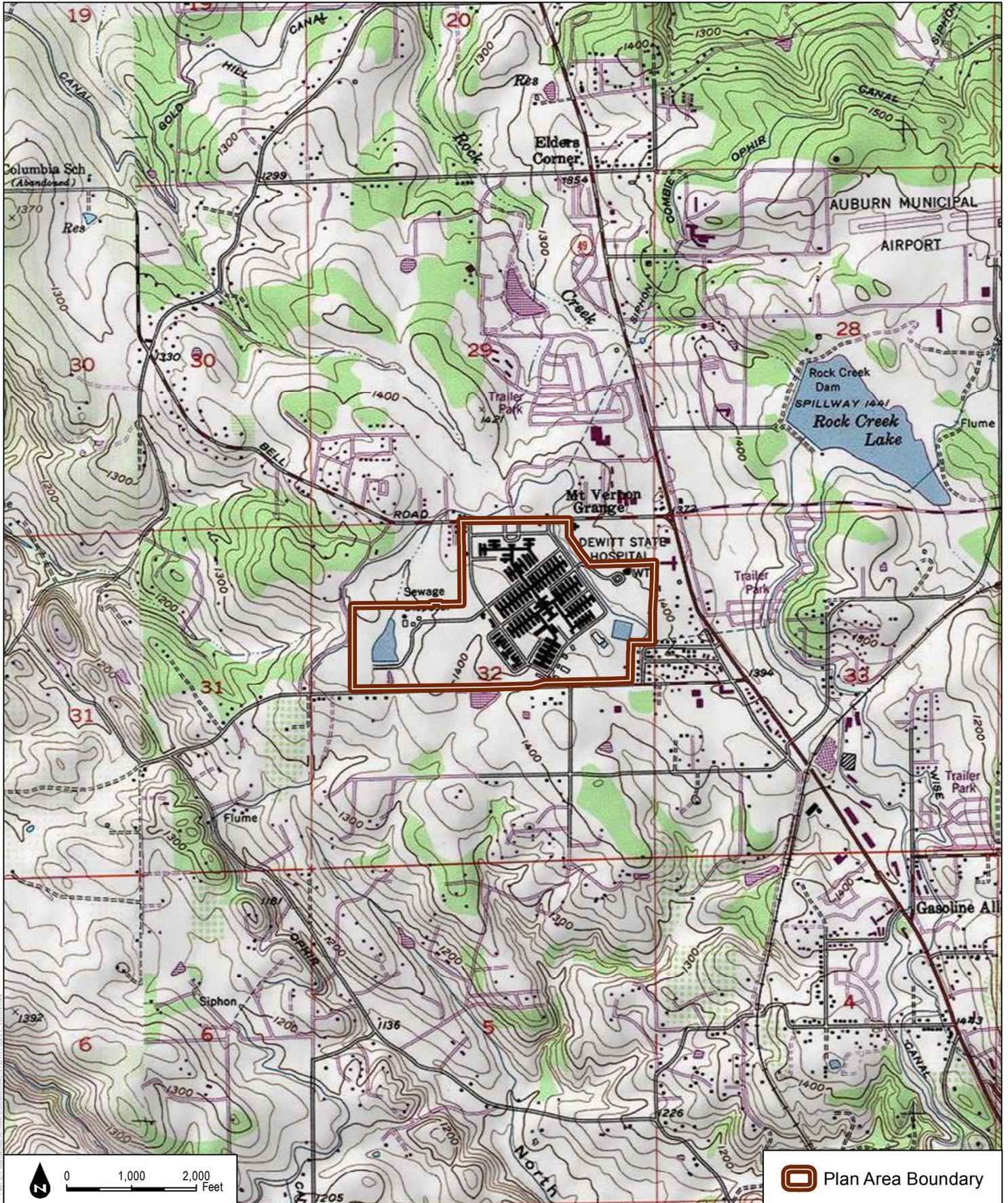


FIGURE 1
Regional Map

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SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Series Auburn Quadrangle

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Placer County Government Center Master Plan Update

 Plan Area Boundary

FIGURE 2
Vicinity Map

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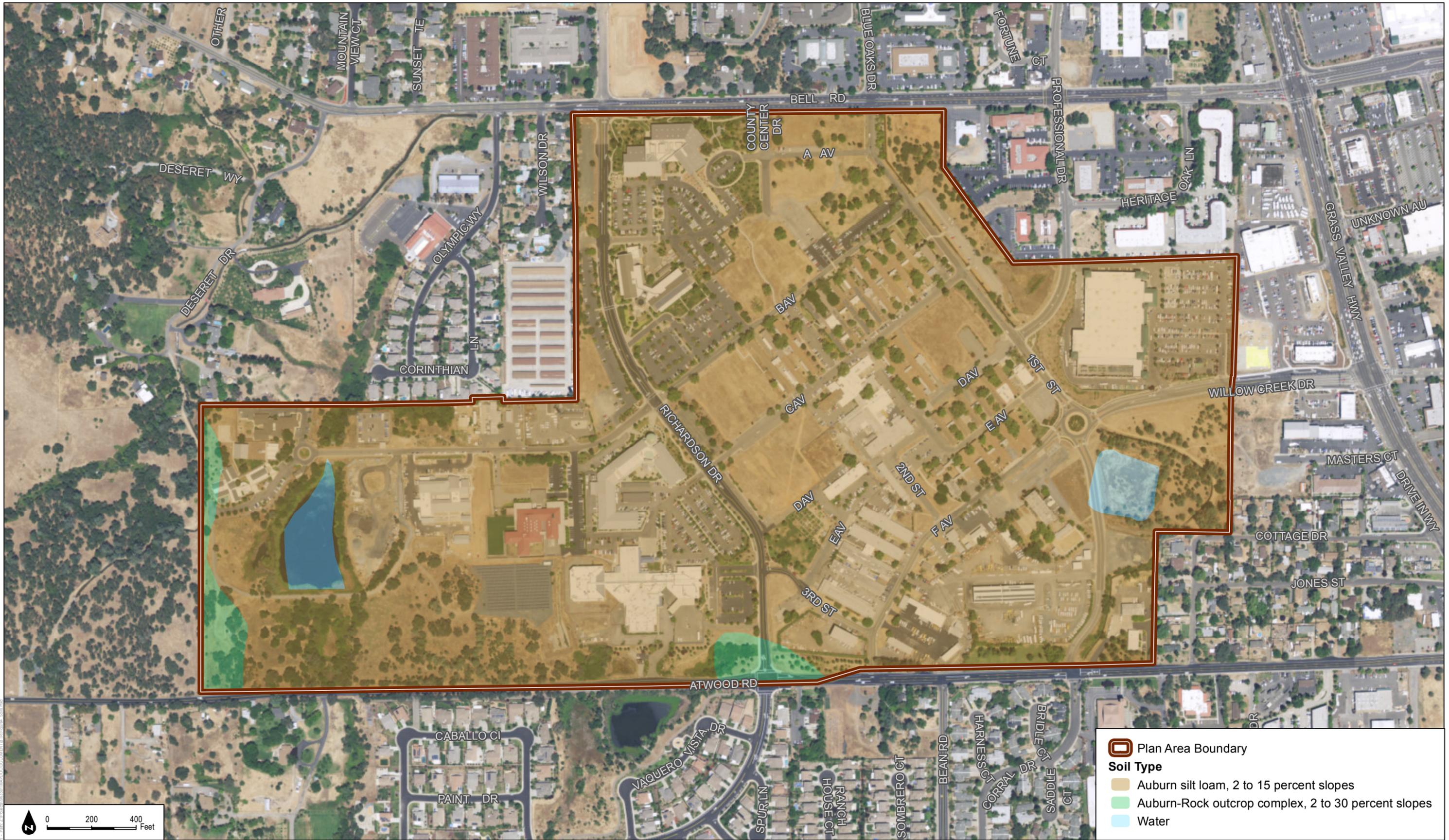
Plan Area Boundary

FIGURE 3
Site Map

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Plan Area Boundary

Soil Type

- Auburn silt loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes
- Auburn-Rock outcrop complex, 2 to 30 percent slopes
- Water

FIGURE 4
Soils

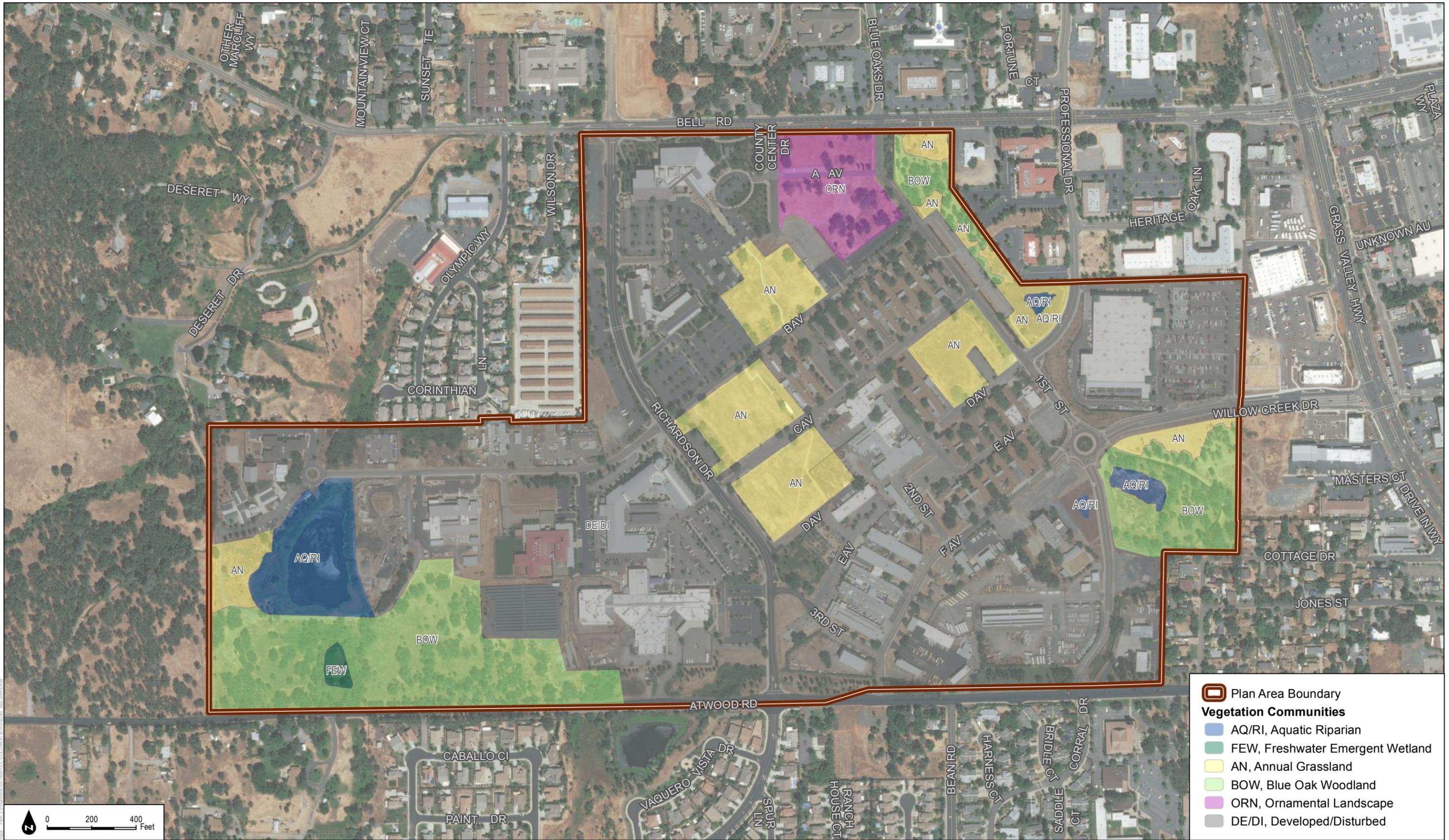
SOURCE: Bing (Accessed 2016), County of Placer 2016, USDA



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Plan Area Boundary

Vegetation Communities

- AQ/RI, Aquatic Riparian
- FEW, Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- AN, Annual Grassland
- BOW, Blue Oak Woodland
- ORN, Ornamental Landscape
- DE/DI, Developed/Disturbed



SOURCE: ESRI Basemaps (Accessed 2016), County of Placer 2016



Placer County Government Center Master Plan Update

FIGURE 5
Vegetation Communities

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APPENDIX A

*Special-Status Species with Known or Potential
Occurrence in the Vicinity of the DeWitt Center
Project in Auburn, California*

APPENDIX B

*List of Vascular Plant Species Recorded
Within the Site*