

Table 5
Potential for Habitat at the Cuesta Grade Workaround to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

Atascadero june beetle (*Polyphylla nubila*), a federal species of concern, is endemic to the sand dune areas near Atascadero and San Luis Obispo.

This work around segment has no significant dune habitat for the Atascadero june beetle.

Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), a federal endangered and California species of concern, is associated with perennial coastal streams of southern California. Southern steelhead depend more on fresh water streams than other salmonid species. This species relies on river and stream headwaters for nursery areas. Unlike other salmonids species, Southern steelhead usually do not die after spawning.

Appropriate aquatic habitat for the southern steelhead is found along a perennial tributary to San Luis Obispo Creek.

The California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) is a federal threatened and California species of special concern whose potential habitat includes all aquatic and riparian areas within it's range. During the dry season, the red-legged frog retreats to upland refuge. Upland habitat includes any landscape features that might provide sufficient cover and moisture. Currently, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties support the greatest density of occupied drainages.

Appropriate aquatic habitat for the California red-legged frog is found along various perennial and ephemeral drainages on the work around.

The California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*), a federal and California species of concern, is associated with a wide variety of habitat. The California horned lizard is often found near sandy washes with scattered scrub vegetation. This lizard requires open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and an abundant supply of ants and other insects.

This work around segment is characterized by marginal habitat for the California horned lizard.

The southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), a federal and California species of concern, is found along streams with deep pools, basking sites and safe underwater retreats.

Modest aquatic habitat for the southwestern pond turtle is found along a perennial tributary to San Luis Obispo Creek.

The prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), a California species of concern, is associated with open desert scrub and grassland communities. This species nests on cliff ledges and in trees.

This work around segment includes areas of appropriate foraging habitat but is not characterized by suitable nesting areas.

The western yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), a California endangered species, is a rare summer transient of southern California. This species nests in deciduous riparian forest and cottonwood-willow woodland communities.

Appropriate riparian habitat for the western yellow-billed cuckoo is found along various perennial and ephemeral drainages on the work around.

Table 5
Potential for Habitat at the Cuesta Grade Workaround to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

The tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), a federal and California species of concern, is largely endemic to California. This colonial nesting species is associated with freshwater marshes with cattail, tule, bulrush, or sedge vegetation.

Wetland habitat occurs along the work around segment but is not likely extensive enough to support a tricolored blackbird nesting colony.

The San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) is a federal and California species of concern associated with coastal southern California sagebrush scrub and chaparral communities from San Diego to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment has appropriate sagebrush and chaparral habitat for the San Diego desert woodrat.

Adobe sanicle (*Sanicula maritima*), a federal species of concern, is associated with moist soils in meadow, grassland, chaparral, and coastal prairie communities.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate grassland habitat for the Adobe sanicle.

Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium rontinale* var. *obispoense*), a federal and California endangered species, is associated with serpentine seeps in chaparral and cismontane woodland communities. This species is endemic to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment provides low quality habitat for the Choro Creek bog thistle.

Congdon's tarplant (*Hemizonia parryi* ssp. *Congdonii*), a federal species of concern, is associated with alkaline soils in grassland communities.

This work around segment has appropriate grassland habitat for Congdon's tarplant.

Jones's layia (*Layia jonesii*), a federal species of concern, is associated with clay soils and serpentine outcrops in chaparral and grassland communities. This species is endemic to Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for Jones's layia.

Cambria morning glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* ssp. *Episcopalis*), a federal species of concern, is associated with chaparral and cismontane woodland communities. This species is endemic to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for Cambria morning glory.

San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *bettinae*), a federal species of concern, is associated with coastal scrub, grassland, and chaparral communities. This species is often found on rocky outcrops within scrub vegetation. The San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya is endemic to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for the San Luis Obispo serpentine dudleya.

Blochman's dudleya (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *blochmaniae*), a federal species of concern, is associated with coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, and valley and foothill grassland communities. This species is often found on open, rocky slopes in shallow clay or serpentine soils

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for Blochman's dudleya.

Table 5
Potential for Habitat at the Cuesta Grade Workaround to Support Sensitive Species Occurring in the Vicinity

Arroyo De La Cruz manzanita (*Arctostaphylos cruzensis*), a federal species of concern, is associated with sandy soils in a variety of habitats.

This work around segment has appropriate habitat for Arroyo De La Cruz manzanita.

Santa Lucia manzanita (*Arctostaphylos luciana*), a federal species of concern, is associated with chaparral communities. This species is often found on shale outcrops and sloping topography. Santa Lucia manzanita is endemic to San Luis Obispo County

This work around segment has appropriate habitat for Santa Lucia manzanita.

Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*), a federal threatened species, is endemic to the Morro Bay area.

This work around segment is not within the narrowly defined distribution range for the Morro manzanita.

Cuesta Pass checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *anomala*), a federal species of concern, is associated with closed-coned coniferous forest and is endemic to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment does not include appropriate coniferous forest habitat for the Cuesta Pass checkerbloom.

San Benito fritillary (*Fritillaria viridea*), a federal species of concern, is associated with serpentine slopes in chaparral communities.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for San Benito fritillary.

San Luis Obispo County lupine (*Lupinus ludovicianus*), a federal species of concern, is associated with open sandy areas in chaparral and cismontane woodland communities. This species is endemic to San Luis Obispo County.

This work around segment has moderately appropriate habitat for San Luis Obispo County lupine.

Dune larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *Blochmaniae*), a federal species of concern, is associated with chaparral and maritime coastal dune communities. This species is often found near rocky areas and dunes.

This work around segment does not include appropriate habitat for the dune larkspur.

Source: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), *San Luis Obispo and Lopez Mountain Quadrangles, California Natural Diversity Database*, March 1999.