

## E - ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

### 6.0 FEDERAL THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is discussed in detail in Section E3.1.4. As stated there, Section 7 of the ESA requires that each federal agency ensure that its actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed endangered or threatened species or result in a destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat for such species. As such, FERC must comply with Section 7 prior to issuing a new license for the Project.

#### 6.1 Agency Consultation

To facilitate an assessment of the potential for the Project to affect ESA-listed species, SMUD staff sent a letter to Wayne White of United States of Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and to Michael Aceituno of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), dated April 9 and 18, 2001, respectively. These letters requested from each agency a list of ESA-listed threatened or endangered species known or suspected to occur in the vicinity of the Project. SMUD's letters included a list of United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps that encompass the Project area. SMUD received a response from the USFWS on April 16, 2001 and from NMFS on May 4, 2001. These responses listed threatened and endangered species, species officially proposed for listing, and other special status species (candidates to become officially proposed, state-listed species, etc.) Based on the information in these letters, a list was prepared of 16 species that the USFWS or NMFS believe may occur in the Project area and are currently listed as threatened, endangered, or officially proposed for listing under the ESA (Table E6.1-1)<sup>1</sup>. Many other special status species are also discussed in this document. However, note that some of the species included on the lists provided by the USFWS and NMFS may not be addressed if it can be concluded that the general literature and known life history of the species indicated the species would certainly not occur in the vicinity of the Project.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to these 16 species, Sacramento Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*) has been identified in the Project Area, but was not identified in the USFWS or NMFS lists. It is listed as endangered by the ESA, and is further discussed in Section E4.1.4.

**Table E6.1-1. List of species that the USFWS or NMFS believe may occur in the Project area and are currently listed under the ESA as threatened (T), endangered (E), or officially proposed for listing (PT), and the primary sections in which these species are discussed in this Initial Information Package.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	ESA Status	See Section for Life History
<b>PLANTS</b>			
Layne's butterweed	<i>Senecio layneae</i>	T	4.1.4
Pine Hill flannel bush	<i>Fremontodendron californicum</i> ssp. <i>decumbens</i>	E	4.1.4
El Dorado bedstraw	<i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>sierrae</i>	E	4.1.4
Pine Hill ceanothus	<i>Ceanothus roderickii</i>	E	4.1.4
Stebbin's morning glory	<i>Calystegia stebbinsii</i>	E	4.1.4
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T	5.1.4, 5.2.3.1
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	E	NA <sup>1</sup>
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T	3.2.5
<b>REPTILES</b>			
Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	NA <sup>1</sup>
<b>FISH</b>			
Delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	T	NA <sup>2</sup>
Lahonton cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi</i>	T <sup>3</sup>	3.2.5 <sup>3</sup>
Central Valley steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T	NA <sup>2</sup>
Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T	NA <sup>2</sup>
Sacramento spittail	<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	T	NA <sup>2</sup>
<b>BIRDS</b>			
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T <sup>4</sup>	5.2.3.3.5 <sup>4</sup>
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	PT	NA <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Habitat for this species does not occur in the Project area.

<sup>2</sup> This fish species occurs downstream of Nimbus and Folsom dams, and not within the Project area. Therefore, the species is not addressed in detail in this document.

<sup>3</sup> Lahonton cutthroat trout is threatened within its native territory. This does not include the Project area as it was introduced in the Project area by CDFG.

<sup>4</sup> Bald eagle is currently proposed for de-listing