

Appendix A
Scoping Report



Memorandum

Date:	February 20, 2013
To:	Chris Devine, Butte County Association of Governments
From:	Sally Zeff, ICF International Jennifer Rogers, ICF International
Subject:	Summary of Public Scoping Meetings for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan—January 9, 2013

Introduction

This public scoping summary memorandum serves as a means to document the joint scoping process for the environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) on the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This memorandum summarizes and compiles all public comments submitted during that scoping period, which concluded on January 28, 2013 for NEPA purposes and on January 30, 2013 for CEQA purposes.

Background

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) plan to prepare an EIS/EIR on the BRCP for western Butte County, California, including the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County.

The BRCP is a comprehensive, regional plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The BRCP serves as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). The BRCP addresses state and federal endangered species compliance requirements for Butte County and the cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley (local agencies), BCAG, the California Department of Transportation District 3 (Caltrans), Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, and the BRCP Implementing Entity that will be established to implement the BRCP (permit applicants) for activities and projects in the BRCP Plan Area that they conduct or approve.

The BRCP is being prepared under the combined efforts of the BCAG and USFWS, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The proposed BRCP is designed to streamline and coordinate existing processes for review and permitting of public and private activities that potentially affect protected species. To meet this goal, the BRCP sets out a conservation strategy that includes measures to ensure that impacts on covered species and habitats related to covered activities are avoided, minimized, or mitigated, as appropriate. These covered activities encompass the range of existing and future activities that are associated with much of the regional economy and the regional transportation plans. The BRCP is further intended to reinforce the role of local government in overseeing local land use planning and decision-making.

In 2007, the BRCP Planning Agreement was entered into and by and among the Local Agencies, BCAG, CDFW, USFWS, and NMFS. In 2010, Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District and Caltrans became signatories to the Planning Agreement. The Planning Agreement set out the initial scope of the program and defined the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the development of the BRCP. The Planning Agreement has helped guide the BRCP planning process and to define the initial scope of the effort.

BCAG served as the lead agency in coordination of the process and preparation of the BRCP. The BRCP's Conservation Strategy provides a regional approach for the long-term conservation of covered species and natural communities within the BRCP Plan Area while allowing for compatible future land use and development under county and city general plan updates and the regional transportation plan. The BRCP identifies and addresses the covered activities carried out by the Permit Applicants that may result in take of covered species within the BRCP Plan Area. The proposed BRCP is consistent with and is intended to support compliance with other federal and state wildlife and related laws and regulations, other local conservation planning efforts, and the city and county general plans. The BRCP was developed in coordination with the development of city and county general plans in the BRCP Plan Area with feedback loops between the BRCP and general plan processes. These feedback loops identified opportunities and constraints and allowed for improvements in the general plans regarding the avoidance and minimization of impacts on biological resources and the development of open space and conservation elements that dovetail with the BRCP.

The EIS/EIR will be prepared pursuant to NEPA and CEQA. BCAG, acting as the lead agency under CEQA, and the USFWS, acting as the lead agency under NEPA, have determined that an EIS/EIR, a joint NEPA/CEQA document, should be prepared for the BRCP. In accordance with NEPA, the USFWS published a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. In compliance with the requirements of CEQA, BCAG prepared a notice of preparation (NOP). CDFW is a Responsible Agency and a Trustee Agency for purposes of CEQA. NMFS is a Cooperating Agency for purposes of NEPA.

The BRCP Plan Area encompasses 564,270 acres in the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County. Covered species are those species addressed in the BRCP for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the Permit Applicants will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Species proposed for coverage in the BRCP are species that currently are federally- and/or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or have the potential to become listed during the BRCP permits, and have some likelihood to occur in the BRCP area. The BRCP is expected

to address 40 listed and nonlisted wildlife and plant species. In addition, the BRCP includes conservation strategies for species of local concern in the Plan Area. The permits are needed to authorize take of listed species that could occur as a result of implementation activities covered under the BRCP.

Publication of Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation

The NOI and NOP serve to inform the public of scoping meetings and the public comment period regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR. Additional details regarding meeting locations and times and the public comment period were provided in this notice.

In compliance with the requirements set forth in CEQA, BCAG prepared an NOP. The NOP contained a brief description of the proposed project, project date, probable environmental effects, the date, time and place of the public scoping meeting, and contact information. The NOP solicited participation in determining the scope and content of the environmental content of the EIR. On December 14, 2012 the NOP was sent to Responsible and Trustee Agencies and involved federal agencies, to the State Clearinghouse, and parties previously requesting notice in writing. The comment period on the NOP was December 14, 2012 to January 30, 2013.

In compliance with the requirements set forth in NEPA, USFWS prepared an NOI describing its intent to prepare an EIS/EIR, the proposed action, the possible alternatives, and relevant scoping meeting and contact information. The NOI was posted in the Federal Register, the United States Government's official noticing and reporting publication, on December 14, 2012. The official comment period for the NOI was December 14, 2012 to January 28, 2013. The NOI can be viewed online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-14/pdf/2012-30182.pdf>.

Notifications/Publicity

Legal notices of the NOP were run in the Gridley Herald, Chico Enterprise, and Oroville Mercury on Friday, December 14, 2013. The NOI/NOP and information about scoping meetings were sent via mail to BCAG's BRCP distribution list, posted on the BRCP Web site (www.buttehcp.com), and sent via email to USFWS' media contacts and BCAG's email distribution list. Publication of the NOI in the Federal Register constitutes public notice of that document. Additionally, the USFWS posted a media release on its Web site.

On January 6, Chicoer.com published a news article about the BRCP and the scoping meetings at: http://www.chicoer.com/ci_22320033/conservation-plan-would-alter-butte-county-environmental-permit?IADID=Search-www.chicoer.com-www.chicoer.com.

Attachment A contains copies of the following:

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Email Notification

- Legal Notice for Newspapers
- Media Release
- News Coverage

Scoping Meetings

Two scoping meetings were held during the NOI/NOP public comment period. They were held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the following locations and times:

Oroville

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Oroville City Council Chambers
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Chico

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
BCAG Conference Room
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928



Public scoping meeting in Oroville, CA on January 9, 2013.

The intent of the meetings was to inform the public of the proposed project and seek feedback on the range of alternatives, environmental effects, and issues of concern related to the BRCP. The meeting times were chosen to accommodate both the work day schedules of public agency representatives and the general public, including residents and business owners.

The meetings were open-house style workshops in which attendees could read and view the information about the project and interact with project staff and ask questions.

Graphic poster boards were on display for attendees to review. The boards described and illustrated the BRCP's history, purpose, need and objectives, plan area, covered species and actions environmental considerations, the CEQA/NEPA process and project timeline. BRCP project staff were stationed at display boards to interact with public attendees and provide additional detail or answer any questions.

A Power Point presentation was given to provide a brief introduction to the BRCP its objectives, the project need, the environmental process and the parties involved in the process.

A fact sheet, providing an overview of the BRCP including purpose and goals, maps of the corresponding plan area, an overview of the environmental compliance process and timeline, was also made available.

Comment cards were prepared so that meeting attendees could provide feedback on the BRCP. These cards could be filled out during the meeting and given to a project staff member.

Attachment B contains copies of the following:

- Display boards
- Power Point presentation
- Fact sheet
- Comment card templates



Public scoping meeting in Chico, CA on January 9, 2013.

Public Feedback

Nine people in total attended the two meetings. Three people attended the meeting in Oroville and six attended the meeting in Chico.

Three comments were received from stakeholders regarding the EIS/EIRs during the scoping period. Below is a list summarizing topics in the comments received.

- Nitrogen deposition in the Plan area could contribute to growth of invasive plant species.
- Ensure compliance with CEQA in terms of adherence to laws related to historic resources and notification of appropriate tribal governments.
- The Office of Planning and Research sent a courtesy letter to reviewing agencies to encourage them to submit comments on the scope and content of the NOP in a timely manner.

Attachment C contains copies of the following:

- Comments received from all interested parties
- Attendee sign-in sheet templates

Next Steps

Comments received during the scoping period will assist in determining which issues are evaluated in detail in the EIS/EIR. Once alternatives have been developed based on the scoping process and preexisting information, they will be analyzed, and a draft EIS/EIR will be developed. Upon the release of the draft EIS/EIR, the public will have 90 days to comment on the document (the length of the comment period is dictated by USFWS regulations, which requires a 90-day review for a public draft HCP with an EIS). Additionally, at least one public hearing will be held so the public and agencies can learn more about the draft EIR/EIS, ask questions regarding the analysis, and provide comments. At these meetings, the alternatives will be presented and explained.

Attachment A

- Notice of Preparation
- Notice of Intent
- Email Notification
- Legal Notice
- Media Release
- News Coverage

Notice of Preparation and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan

Introduction

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) for western Butte County, including the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County. This is a comprehensive, regional plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. The BRCP serves as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). The BRCP addresses state and federal endangered species compliance requirements for the County of Butte and the cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley (Local Agencies), BCAG, the California Department of Transportation District 3 (Caltrans), Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, and the BRCP Implementing Entity that will be established to implement the BRCP (Permit Applicants) for activities and projects in the BRCP Plan Area that they conduct or approve.

The EIS/EIR will be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). BCAG, acting as the lead agency under CEQA, and the Service, acting as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), have determined that an EIS/EIR should be prepared for the BRCP. In accordance with NEPA, the Service is publishing a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is a Responsible Agency and a Trustee Agency for purposes of CEQA. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is a Cooperating Agency for purposes of NEPA.

The BRCP Plan Area encompasses approximately 564,270 acres in the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County, California (Figure 1). Covered species are those species addressed in the BRCP for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the Permit Applicants will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Species proposed for coverage in the BRCP are species that currently are federally- and/or state-listed as threatened or endangered, or have the potential to become listed during the life of the BRCP, and have some likelihood to occur in the BRCP area. The BRCP is expected to address 40 listed and nonlisted wildlife and plant species (Table 1). In addition, the BRCP includes conservation strategies for species of local concern in the Plan Area (Table 2). The permits are needed to authorize take of listed species that could occur as a result of implementation activities covered under the BRCP (see Covered Activities below).

This notice also serves to notify the public of scoping meetings and the public comment period regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR. Additional details regarding meeting locations and times and the public comment period are provided in this notice.

Butte Regional Conservation Plan

Background

In 2007, the BRCP Planning Agreement was entered into and by and among the Local Agencies, BCAG, CDFG, the Service and NMFS. In 2010, Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District and Caltrans became signatories to the Planning Agreement. The Planning Agreement set out the initial scope of the program and defined the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the development of the BRCP. The Planning Agreement has helped guide the BRCP planning process and to define the initial scope of the effort. BCAG served as the lead in coordination of the process and preparation of the BRCP.

The BRCP's Conservation Strategy provides a regional approach for the long-term conservation of covered species and natural communities within the BRCP Plan Area while allowing for compatible future land use and development under county and city general plan updates and the regional transportation plan. The BRCP identifies and addresses the covered activities (see below) carried out by the Permit Applicants that may result in take of covered species within the BRCP Plan Area.

The proposed BRCP is consistent with and is intended to support compliance with other federal and state wildlife and related laws and regulations, other local conservation planning efforts, and the city and county general plans. The BRCP was developed in coordination with the development of city and county general plans in the BRCP Plan Area with feedback loops between the BRCP and general plan processes. These feedback loops identified opportunities and constraints and allowed for improvements in the general plans regarding the avoidance and minimization of impacts on biological resources and the development of open space and conservation elements that dovetail with the BRCP.

Project Description

The BRCP is being prepared under the combined efforts of the BCAG and the Service, in coordination with CDFG and NMFS. The proposed BRCP is designed to streamline and coordinate existing processes for review and permitting of public and private activities that potentially affect protected species. To meet this goal, the BRCP sets out a conservation strategy that includes measures to ensure that impacts on covered species and habitats related to covered activities are avoided, minimized, or mitigated, as appropriate. These covered activities encompass the range of existing and future activities that are associated with much of the regional economy and the regional transportation plans (see Covered Activities below). The BRCP is further intended to reinforce the role of local government in overseeing local land use planning and decision-making.

BRCP Plan Area

The BRCP Plan area includes the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County bounded on the west by county boundaries with Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa counties; bounded on the south by boundaries with Sutter and Yuba counties; bounded on the north by the boundary with Tehama County; and bounded on the east by the upper extent of landscape dominated by oak woodland natural communities—approximately 564,270 acres (Figure 1). Specifically, the eastern oak woodland boundary is defined by a line below which land cover types dominated by oak trees comprise more than one half of the land cover present plus a small portion of the City of Chico that extends above the oak zone. The BRCP Plan area was defined as the area in which covered activities

would occur, impacts would be evaluated, and a conservation strategy would be implemented. The boundary of the BRCP area is based on political, ecological, and hydrologic factors.

Covered Species

The BRCP is expected to address 40 listed and non-listed wildlife and plant species. The list of proposed covered species may change as the planning process progresses; species may be added or removed as more is learned about the nature of covered activities and their impact in the BRCP area. Table 1 lists the proposed covered species and their current listing status. Table 2 lists the species to be conserved within the Plan Area.

Covered Activities

The purpose of the BRCP is to contribute to the conservation of covered species while streamlining endangered species permitting for covered activities in the proposed BRCP area. The BCAG and the Permit Applicants intend to request incidental take authorization for covered species that could be affected by activities identified in the BRCP.

As described in the BRCP, the activities within the Plan Area for which incidental take permit coverage is requested include construction and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure, both public and private, which are consistent with local general plans, and local, state and federal laws. The following is a summary of covered activities as proposed in the BRCP. Activities are grouped geographically (within Urban Permit Areas, outside urban permit areas, and within the system of conservation lands established in the BRCP) and are further grouped into activities that result in permanent development, and activities involving maintenance of existing or new facilities that are expected to occur over time during the permit duration. This list is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it provides an overview of the types of activities that would be expected to occur.

Activities Within Urban Permit Areas (UPAs)

UPAs are areas within the Plan Area within which the cities and County anticipate urban development under their respective general plan updates.

- 1) Permanent Development: covered activities within UPAs as a result of new construction and improvements to existing facilities are covered, including the following types of activities:
 - a) Residential, commercial, public facilities, and industrial construction.
 - b) Recreational activity-related construction.
 - c) Transportation facilities construction.
 - d) Pipeline installation.
 - e) Utility services (above and below ground).
 - f) Waste and wastewater management activities.
 - g) Flood control and stormwater management activities.
 - h) In-water permanent development projects

- 2) Recurring Maintenance: covered activities within UPAs include maintenance of existing and new facilities resulting in temporary impacts, including the following types of activities:
 - a) Recreational activities.
 - b) Transportation facilities maintenance.
 - c) Pipeline maintenance.
 - d) Utility services.
 - e) Waste and wastewater facilities management activities.
 - f) Flood control and stormwater management activities.
 - g) Vegetation management.
 - h) Bridge and drainage structure maintenance.
 - i) Irrigation and drainage canal activities (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District).
 - j) In-water recurring maintenance activities

Activities Outside UPAs

These areas of the County are within the Plan Area and located outside of the UPAs. Covered activities include linear utilities, transportation construction and maintenance projects, and agricultural support services projects. Outside UPAs do not include areas that become part of BRCP conservation lands.

- 1) Permanent Development: covered activities of outside UPAs includes new construction and improvements to existing facilities, including the following types of activities:
 - a) Waste management and wastewater facilities.
 - b) Rerouting of canals (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District).
 - c) Transportation Facilities Construction:
 - a) BCAG Regional Transportation Plan and Caltrans projects.
 - b) Butte County rural bridge replacement projects.
 - d) Butte County rural intersection improvement projects.
 - e) Butte County rural roadway improvement projects.
 - d) Agricultural services.
 - e) In-water permanent development activities.

- 2) Recurring Maintenance covered activities of outside UPAs include maintenance of existing and new facilities, including the following types of activities:
 - a) Waste and wastewater management activities.
 - b) Irrigation and drainage canal activities (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District).
 - c) Transportation facilities maintenance.
 - d) Flood control and stormwater management activities.
 - e) Vegetation management.
 - f) Bridge and drainage structure maintenance.
 - g) In-water recurring maintenance activities

Conservation Lands

These areas include the system of conservation lands established under the BRCP. It includes conservation actions implemented by the BRCP on conservation lands, including the following types of activities:

- 1) Habitat management.
- 2) Habitat restoration and enhancement.
- 3) Habitat and species monitoring.
- 4) Directed studies.
- 5) General maintenance of conservation lands and facilities.
- 6) Avoidance and minimization measures.
- 7) Species population enhancement measures.
- 8) Public education and access control facilities
- 9) In-water conservation actions

Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

The BCAG and the Service will prepare a joint document in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. The BCAG will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for CEQA purposes, and the Service will be responsible for the scope and content of the document for NEPA purposes. The EIS/EIR will consider the proposed action (issuance of ESA permits) and a reasonable range of alternatives. A detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives will be included in the EIS/EIR. It is anticipated that several alternatives will be developed, which may include alternatives that vary by the level of conservation, impacts caused by the proposed activities, permit area, covered species, or a combination of these factors. The EIS/EIR is anticipated to address potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and beneficial effects on the following environmental issues: agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, climate change/greenhouse gas emissions, cultural resources, geology/soils/mineral resources,

hazards/hazardous materials, water resources/hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation/open space, socioeconomics, environmental justice, traffic/transportation, utilities/service systems, and visual resources.

For potentially significant impacts, the EIS/EIR will identify mitigation measures where feasible to reduce these impacts to a level below significance.

Public Involvement

Public Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings have been scheduled to provide an overview of the BRCP and obtain written and/or oral comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

Oroville

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oroville City Council Chambers
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Chico

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico CA 95928

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in one of the public meetings should contact Chris Devine at (530) 879-2468 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than 1 week before the public meeting.

Submitting Comments

Please send written comments on or before January 30, 2013. Written comments regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR are invited from interested parties to ensure that the full range of environmental issues related to the proposed action is identified and evaluated. All comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will become part of the official administrative record and will be made available to the public. Information, written comments, or questions related to the preparation of the EIS/EIR should be received on or before January 30, 2013. Written comments should be directed to:

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
Butte County Association of Governments
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928
Fax: (530) 879-2444
Email: cdevine@bcag.org

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, please visit the following website: www.buttehcp.com.

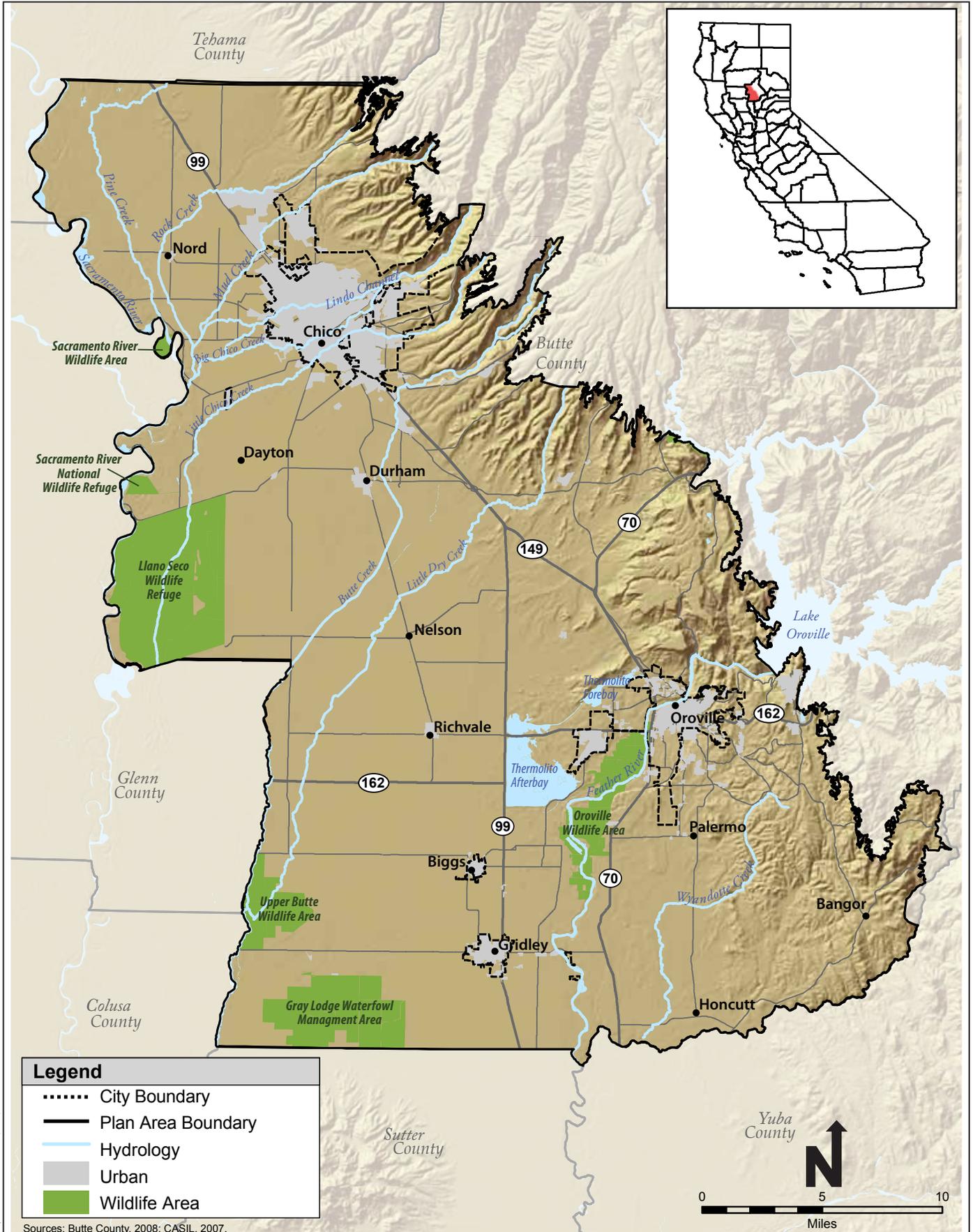


Figure 1
Plan Area for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan

Table 1. Covered Species under the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) and Their Listing Status

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^a Federal/State/CNPS
Birds		
1 Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	-/SSC/-
2 Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	-/SSC/-
3 Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	-/T/-
4 Western burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>	-/SSC/-
5 Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	C/E/-
6 Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	-/T,FP/-
7 California black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	-/T,FP/-
8 American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	D/D,FP/-
9 Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	-/T/-
10 White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-/FP/-
11 Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	D/E,FP/-
Reptiles		
12 Giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T/T/-
13 Blainville's horned lizard ^b	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	-/SSC/-
14 Western pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	-/SSC/-
Amphibians		
15 Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	-/SSC/-
16 Western spadefoot toad	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	-/SSC/-
Fish		
17 Central Valley steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T/-/-
18 Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T/T/-
19 Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	-/SSC/-
20 Sacramento splittail	<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	-/SSC/-
21 Green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	T/SSC/-
22 River lamprey	<i>Lampetra ayresii</i>	-/SSC/-
Invertebrates		
23 Valley elderberry longhorn beetle ^c	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	T/-/-
24 Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	E/-/-
25 Conservancy fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E/-/-
26 Vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T/-/-
Plants		
27 Ferris' milkvetch	<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i>	-/-/1B
28 Lesser saltscale	<i>Atriplex minuscula</i>	-/-/1B
29 Hoover's spurge	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i>	T/-/1B
30 Ahart's dwarf rush	<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i>	-/-/1B
31 Red Bluff dwarf rush	<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>leiospermus</i>	-/-/1B
32 Butte County meadowfoam	<i>Limnanthes floccosa</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	E/E/1B
33 Veiny Monardella	<i>Monardella douglasii</i> ssp. <i>venosa</i>	-/-/1B
34 Hairy Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	E/E/1B
35 Slender Orcutt grass	<i>Orcuttia tenuis</i>	T/E/1B
36 Ahart's paronychia	<i>Paronychia ahartii</i>	-/-/1B
37 California beaked-rush	<i>Rhynchospora californica</i>	-/-/1B
38 Butte County checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea robusta</i>	-/-/1B

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^a
		Federal/State/CNPS
39 Butte County golden clover	<i>Trifolium jokerstii</i>	-/-/1B
40 Greene's tuctoria	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	E/R/1B

^a Status:

Federal

E = listed as endangered under ESA

T = listed as threatened under ESA

C = candidate for listing under ESA

D = delisted under ESA

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

1B = rare or endangered in California and elsewhere

State

E = listed as endangered under CESA

T = listed as threatened under CESA

D = delisted under CESA

R = Listed as rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act

SSC = California species of special concern

FP = fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code.

^b Formerly California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*)

^c Valley elderberry longhorn beetle was proposed for de-listing by USFWS in October 2006. If it is removed from federal protection status, it may no longer meet the criteria for coverage under the BRCP.

Table 2. Species of Local Concern Proposed for Conservation Under the BRCP

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ^a
		Federal/State/CNPS
Birds		
1 Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia sonorana</i>	-/SSC/-
2 California thrasher	<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	-/-/-
3 Purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	-/SSC/-
4 California horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	-/-/-
5 Yellow-billed magpie	<i>Pica nuttalli</i>	-/-/-
6 Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	-/SSC/-
7 Willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	-/E/-
8 Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	-/SSC/-
9 Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	-/SSC/-
10 Greater roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	-/-/-
11 Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	-/FP/-
12 Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	-/SSC/-
13 Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	-/-/-
14 Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	-/-/-
Fish		
15 Tule perch	<i>Hysterocarpus traski</i>	-/-/-
16 Hitch	<i>Lavinia exilicauda</i>	-/-/-
17 Hardhead	<i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i>	-/SSC/-

^a Status:

Federal

- E = listed as endangered under ESA
- T = listed as threatened under ESA
- C = candidate for listing under ESA
- D = delisted under ESA

State

- E = listed as endangered under CESA
- T = listed as threatened under CESA
- SSC = California species of special concern
- FP = fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code.

(2) FWS Form 3-2327 (Designated Hunter Permit Application, Permit, and Report).

(3) FWS Form 3-2328 (Federal Subsistence Fishing Application, Permit, and Report).

(4) FWS Form 3-2378 (Designated Fishing Permit Application, Permit, and Report).

(5) FWS Form 3-2379 (Federal Subsistence Customary Trade Recordkeeping Form).

We use the information collected to evaluate:

- Eligibility of applicant.
- Subsistence harvest success.
- Effectiveness of season lengths, harvest quotas, and harvest restrictions.
- Hunting patterns and practices.
- Hunter use.

The Federal Subsistence Board uses the harvest data, along with other information, to set future season dates and bag limits for Federal subsistence resource users. These seasons and bag limits are set to meet the needs of subsistence hunters without adversely impacting the health of existing animal populations.

Also included in this ICR are three forms associated with recruitment and selection of members for regional advisory councils.

(1) FWS Form 2321 (Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Membership Application/Nomination).

(2) FWS Form 2322 (Regional Advisory Council Candidate Interview).

(3) FWS Form 2323 (Regional Advisory Council Reference/Key Contact Interview).

The member selection process begins with the information that we collect on the application. Ten interagency review panels interview all applicants and nominees, their references, and regional key contacts. These contacts are all based on the information that the applicant provides on the application form. The information that we collect through the application form and subsequent interviews is the basis of the Federal Subsistence Board's recommendations to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture for appointment and reappointment of council members.

In addition to the above forms, our regulations at 50 CFR 100 and 36 CFR 242 contain requirements for the collection of information. We collect nonform information on:

(1) Repeal of Federal subsistence rules and regulations (50 CFR 100.14 and 36 CFR 242.14).

(2) Proposed changes to Federal subsistence regulations (50 CFR 100.18 and 36 CFR 242.18).

(3) Special action requests (50 CFR 100.19 and 36 CFR 242.19).

(4) Requests for reconsideration (50 CFR 100.20 and 36 CFR 242.20).

(5) Requests for permits and reports, such as traditional religious/cultural/educational permits, fishwheel permits, fyke net permits, and under-ice permits (50 CFR 100.25-27 and 36 CFR 242.25-27).

Comments: On July 9, 2012, we published in the **Federal Register** (77 FR 40372) a notice of our intent to request that OMB renew approval for this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on September 7, 2012. We did not receive any comments in response to that notice.

We again invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask OMB in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that it will be done.

Dated: December 6, 2012.

Tina A. Campbell,

Chief, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2012-30175 Filed 12-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2012-N226; FF08ESMF00-FXES11120800000-134]

Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan for Western Butte County, CA: Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent; notice of public scoping meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), intend to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan for Western Butte County, hereafter referred to as the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP). This document is being prepared under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. The BRCP addresses State and Federal endangered species compliance requirements for the county of Butte and the cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley (local agencies); the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG); the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); the Western Canal Water District; the Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District; and Richvale Irrigation District; and the BRCP implementing entity that will be established to implement the BRCP (permit applicants) for activities and projects in the BRCP plan area that they conduct or approve. The permit applicants intend to apply for a 50-year incidental take permit from the Service. This permit is needed to authorize the incidental take of threatened and endangered species that could result from activities covered under the BCRP. We announce meetings and invite comments.

DATES: To ensure consideration, please send your written comments by January 28, 2013. Two public scoping meetings will be held on January 9th, 2013, the first from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Oroville City Council Chambers, located at 1735 Montgomery Street Oroville, CA 95965; and the second from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Butte County Association of Governments, at 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace Suite 100, Chico, CA 95928.

ADDRESSES: To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comment is in reference to the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP):

- *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825.

- *In-Person Drop-Off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call 916-414-6600 to make an appointment during regular business hours to drop off comments or view

received comments at the above U.S. mail address.

• *Fax:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 916–414–6713, Attn.: Mike Thomas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Thomas, Chief, Conservation Planning Division, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, or Eric Tattersall, Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor, by phone at 916–414–6600 or by U.S. mail at the above address. If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at 800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), publish this notice under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*; NEPA), and its implementing regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 40 CFR 1506.6, as well as in compliance with section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Act). We intend to prepare a draft EIS to evaluate the impacts of several alternatives related to the potential issuance of an Incidental Take Permit to the applicants, as well as impacts of the implementation of the supporting proposed Butte Regional Conservation Plan. The EIS will be a joint EIS/Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for which the Service, BCAG, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), intend to gather information necessary for preparation.

The BRCP is a comprehensive, regional plan designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other important uses of the land. It will serve as a habitat conservation plan pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (Act), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA).

The Service will serve as the administrative lead for all actions related to this **Federal Register** notice for the EIS component of the EIS/EIR. The BCAG will serve as the State lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for the EIR component. BCAG, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, is publishing a similar notice.

Project Summary

In 2007, the BRCP planning agreement was entered into and by and among the local agencies, BCAG, CDFG,

the Service, and NMFS. In 2010, Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District and Caltrans became additional signatories to the planning agreement. The planning agreement set out the initial scope of the program and defined the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the development of the BRCP. The planning agreement has helped guide the BRCP planning process and to define the initial scope of the effort. BCAG served as the lead in coordination of the process and preparation of the BRCP.

The BRCP's conservation strategy proposes to provide a regional approach for the long-term conservation of covered species (see Covered Species, below) and natural communities within the BRCP plan area while allowing for compatible future land use and development under county and city general plan updates and the regional transportation plans. The BRCP identifies and addresses the covered activities carried out by the permittees that may result in take of covered species within the BRCP plan area.

The proposed BRCP is intended to be consistent with and support compliance with other Federal and State wildlife and related laws and regulations, other local conservation planning efforts, and the city and county general plans. The BRCP was developed in coordination with the development of city and county general plans in the BRCP plan area, with feedback loops between the BRCP and general plan processes. These feedback loops identified opportunities and constraints and allowed for improvements in the general plans regarding the avoidance and minimization of impacts on biological resources and the development of open space and conservation elements that dovetail with the BRCP.

The proposed BRCP is designed to streamline and coordinate existing processes for review and permitting of public and private activities that potentially affect protected species. To meet this goal, the BRCP will propose a conservation strategy that includes measures to ensure that impacts on covered species and habitats related to covered activities are avoided, minimized, or mitigated, as appropriate. Covered activities encompass the range of existing and future activities that are associated with much of the regional economy (see Covered Activities, below).

Background

Section 9 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and Federal regulations prohibit

the “take” of wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. The Act defines the term “take” as: to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect listed species, or to attempt to engage in such conduct (16 U.S.C. 1532). Harm includes significant habitat modification or degradation that actually kills or injures listed wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, and sheltering [50 CFR 17.3(c)]. Pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we may issue permits to authorize “incidental take” of listed species. “Incidental take” is defined by the Act as take that is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity. Service regulations governing permits for threatened species and endangered species, respectively, are promulgated in 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act contains provisions for issuing such incidental take permits to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the following criteria are met:

- The taking will be incidental;
- The applicants will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking;
- The applicants will develop a proposed HCP and ensure that adequate funding for the plan will be provided;
- The taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and
- The applicants will carry out any other measures that the Service may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the HCP.

Thus, the purpose of issuing an ITP is to allow the applicants, under their respective regional authority, to authorize development while conserving the covered species and their habitats. Implementation of a multispecies HCP, rather than a species-by-species or project-by-project approach, can maximize the benefits of conservation measures for covered species and eliminate expensive and time-consuming efforts associated with processing individual ITPs for each project within the applicants' proposed Plan Area. The Service expects that the applicants will request ITP coverage for a period of 50 years.

Plan Area

The boundary of the BRCP plan area (or permit area) is based on political, ecological, and hydrologic factors. The BRCP plan area includes approximately 564,270 acres, including the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County.

The BRCP plan area is bounded on the west by county boundaries with Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa Counties; bounded on the south by boundaries with Sutter and Yuba Counties; bounded on the north by the boundary with Tehama County; and bounded on the east by the upper extent of landscape dominated by oak woodland natural communities. Specifically, the eastern oak woodland boundary is defined by a line below which land-cover types dominated by oak trees comprise more than one half of the land cover present, plus a small portion of the City of Chico that extends above the oak zone.

Covered Activities

The proposed section 10 incidental take permit may allow take of covered wildlife species resulting from covered activities on non-Federal land in the proposed BRCP plan area. BCAG and local partners intend to request incidental take authorization for covered species that could be affected by activities identified in the BRCP. The activities within the BRCP plan area for which incidental take permit coverage is requested include construction and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure, both public and private, that are consistent with local general plans and local, State and Federal laws. The following is a summary of covered activities as proposed in the BRCP. Activities are grouped geographically (within Urban Permit Areas, outside urban permit areas, and within the system of conservation lands established in the BRCP), and are further grouped into activities that result in permanent development, and activities involving maintenance of existing or new facilities that are expected to occur over time during the permit duration. This following list is not intended to be exhaustive; rather, it provides an overview of the types of activities that would be expected to occur.

1. Activities within Urban Permit Areas (UPAs) are areas within the BRCP plan area for which the cities and County anticipate urban development under their respective general plan updates.

a. Permanent Development: Covered activities within UPAs as a result of new construction and improvements to existing facilities are covered, including the following types of activities: residential, commercial, public facilities, and industrial construction; recreational activity-related construction; transportation facilities construction; pipeline installation; utility services (above and below

ground); waste and wastewater management activities; flood control and stormwater management activities; and in-water permanent development projects.

b. Recurring Maintenance: Covered activities within UPAs include maintenance of existing and new facilities that results in temporary impacts, including the following types of activities: recreational activities; transportation facilities maintenance; pipeline maintenance; utility services; waste and wastewater facilities management activities; flood control and stormwater management activities; vegetation management; bridge and drainage structure maintenance; in-water recurring maintenance activities; and irrigation and drainage canal activities (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District).

2. Activities outside UPAs are areas of the county within the BRCP plan area and located outside of the UPAs. Covered activities include linear utilities, transportation construction and maintenance projects, and agricultural support services projects. Outside UPAs do not include areas that become part of BRCP conservation lands.

a. Permanent Development: Covered activities of outside UPAs include new construction and improvements to existing facilities, including the following types of activities: waste management and wastewater facilities; rerouting of canals (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District); transportation facilities construction; BCAG Regional Transportation Plan and Caltrans projects; county rural bridge replacement projects; Butte County rural intersection improvement projects; Butte County rural roadway improvement projects; in-water permanent development projects; and agricultural services.

b. Recurring Maintenance: Covered activities of outside UPAs include maintenance of existing and new facilities, including the following types of activities: waste and wastewater management activities; irrigation and drainage canal activities (Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, and Richvale Irrigation District); transportation facilities maintenance; flood control and stormwater management activities; vegetation management; in-water maintenance activities; and bridge and drainage structure maintenance.

3. Conservation Lands include the system of conservation lands established under the BRCP. Conservation actions will be implemented by the BRCP on conservation lands, including the following types of activities: habitat management; habitat restoration and enhancement; habitat and species monitoring; directed studies; general maintenance of conservation lands and facilities; avoidance and minimization measures; and species population enhancement measures.

Covered Species

Covered Species are those species addressed in the proposed BRCP for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the permit applicants will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years. Proposed covered species are expected to include threatened and endangered species listed under the Act, species listed under the California Endangered Species Act, and currently unlisted species. Species proposed for coverage in the BRCP are species that are currently listed as federally threatened or endangered or have the potential to become listed during the life of this BRCP and have some likelihood to occur within the BRCP plan area. The BRCP is currently expected to address 41 listed and non-listed wildlife and plant species. The list of proposed covered species may change as the planning process progresses; species may be added or removed as more is learned about the nature of covered activities and their impact within the BRCP plan area.

The following federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species are proposed to be covered by the BRCP: The threatened Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), threatened Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), endangered vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), endangered conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*).

The following unlisted wildlife species are proposed to be covered by the BRCP: tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Western burrowing owl (*Athene*

cunicularia hypugea), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*), California black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*), Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*), Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*), and river lamprey (*Lampetra ayresii*).

Take of listed plant species is not prohibited on non-Federal land under the Act, and cannot be authorized under a section 10 permit. However, the permit applicants propose to include plant species on the permit in recognition of the conservation benefits provided for them under an HCP. For the purposes of the plan, certain plant species are further included to meet regulatory obligations under section 7 of the Act and the California Endangered Species Act. The Applicant would receive assurances under the Service's "No Surprises" regulations found in 50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5) for all species on the incidental take permit. The following federally listed plant species are proposed to be included in the BRCP in recognition of the conservation benefits provided for them under the BRCP and the assurances permit holders would receive if they are included on a permit: the threatened Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*), endangered Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *californica*), endangered hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), threatened slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*), and endangered Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*). The following unlisted plant species are also proposed to be included in the BRCP: Ferris' milkvetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *ferrisiae*), lesser saltscare (*Atriplex minuscula*), Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*), Red Bluff dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *leiospermus*), veiny monardella (*Monardella douglasii* ssp. *venosa*), Ahart's paronychia (*Paronychia ahartii*), California beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora californica*) Butte County checkerbloom (*Sidalcea robusta*), and Butte County golden clover (*Trifolium jokerstii*).

Environmental Impact Statement

Before deciding whether to issue the requested Federal incidental take

permit, the Service will prepare a draft EIS, in order to analyze the environmental impacts associated with issuance of the incidental take permit. In the EIS, the Service will consider the following alternatives: (1) The proposed action, which includes the issuance of take authorizations consistent with the proposed BRCP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act; (2) no action (no permit issuance); and (3) a reasonable range of additional alternatives. The EIS/EIR will include a detailed analysis of the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. The range of alternatives could include variations in impacts, conservation, permit duration, covered species, covered activities, permit area, or a combination of these elements.

The EIS/EIR will identify and analyze potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of our authorization of incidental take (permit issuance) and the implementation of the proposed BRCP on biological resources, land uses, utilities, air quality, water resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic and environmental justice, recreation, aesthetics, climate change and greenhouse gases, and other environmental issues that could occur with implementation of each alternative. The Service will use all practicable means, consistent with NEPA and other relevant considerations of national policy, to avoid or minimize significant effects of our actions on the quality of the human environment.

Following completion of the environmental review, the Service will publish a notice of availability and a request for comment on the draft EIS/EIR and the applicants' permit application, which will include the proposed HCP.

Public Comments

We request data, comments, new information, or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other interested party on this notice. We will consider these comments in developing a draft EIS/EIR and in the development of an HCP and ITP. We particularly seek comments on the following:

1. Biological information concerning the species;
2. Relevant data concerning the species;
3. Additional information concerning the range, distribution, population size, and population trends of the species;
4. Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on the species;

5. The presence of archeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which are required to be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act; and

6. Identification of any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed development and permit action.

You may submit your comments and materials by one of the methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we use in preparing the EIS/EIR document, will be available for public inspection by appointment, during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) at the Service's Sacramento address (see **ADDRESSES**).

Scoping Meetings

See **DATES** for the dates and times of our public meetings. The purpose of scoping meetings is to provide the public with a general understanding of the background of the proposed HCP and activities it would cover, alternative proposals under consideration for the draft EIS, and the Service's role and steps to be taken to develop the draft EIS for the proposed HCP.

The primary purpose of these meetings and public comment period is to solicit suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives for the Service to consider when drafting the EIS. Written comments will be accepted at the meetings. Comments can also be submitted by methods listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Once the draft EIS and proposed HCP are complete and made available for review, there will be additional opportunity for public comment on the content of these documents through additional public comment periods.

Meeting Location Accommodations

Persons needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate in the public meetings should contact Mike Thomas at 916-414-6600 as soon as possible. In order to allow sufficient time to process requests, please call no later than one week before the public meeting. Information regarding this proposed action is available in alternative formats upon request.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and per NEPA Regulations (40 CFR 1501.7, 40 CFR 1506.6, and 1508.22).

Dated: December 10, 2012

Alexandra Pitts,

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 2012-30182 Filed 12-13-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R8-ES-2012-N204; FF08E00000-FXES112080000F2-123-F2]

Proposed Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the State-Route 99/Cartmill Avenue Interchange Improvements Project, City of Tulare, Tulare County, CA

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comment.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have received an application from the City of Tulare, Tulare County, California (applicant), for a 5-year incidental take permit for two species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The application addresses the potential for “take” of two listed animals, the vernal pool fairy shrimp and the San Joaquin kit fox. The applicant would implement a conservation strategy program to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects of the project’s covered activities, as described in the applicant’s low-effect habitat conservation plan (HCP). We request comments on the applicant’s application and plan, and our preliminary determination that the plan qualifies as a “low-effect” habitat conservation plan, eligible for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). We discuss our basis for this determination in our environmental action statement (EAS), also available for public review.

DATES: We must receive written comments on or before January 14, 2013.

ADDRESSES: To request further information or submit written comments, please use one of the following methods, and note that your information request or comment is in reference to the Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the State Route 99/Cartmill Avenue Interchange Improvements Project, City of Tulare, Tulare County, California:

• *U.S. Mail:* Nina Bicknese, Conservation Planning Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento

Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825.

• *In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:* Call (916) 414-6600 to make an appointment during regular business hours to drop off comments or view received comments at the address shown above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mike Thomas, Chief, Conservation Planning Division, or Eric Tattersall, Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor, at the address shown above or at (916) 414-6600 (telephone). If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf, please call the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Availability of Documents

You may obtain copies of the permit application, HCP, and EAS from the individuals in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Copies of these documents are also available for public inspection, by appointment, during regular business hours, at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Availability of Comments

Before including your address, phone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—might be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Background Information

Section 9 of the Act prohibits taking of fish and wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened under section 4 of the Act. Under the Act, the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The term “harm” is defined in the regulations as significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury of listed species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3). The term “harass” is defined in the regulations as to carry out actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns, which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

However, under specified circumstances, the Service may issue permits that allow the take of federally

listed species, provided that the take that occurs is incidental to, but not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. Regulations governing permits for endangered and threatened species are at 50 CFR 17.22 and 17.32, respectively.

Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act contains provisions for issuing such incidental take permits to non-Federal entities for the take of endangered and threatened species, provided the following criteria are met:

1. The taking will be incidental;
2. The applicants will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impact of such taking;
3. The applicants will develop a proposed HCP and ensure that adequate funding for the HCP will be provided;
4. The taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild; and
5. The applicants will carry out any other measures that the Service may require as being necessary or appropriate for the purposes of the HCP.

The applicant seeks an incidental take permit for proposed covered activities within a 219-acre permit area surrounding the intersection of State Route 99 and Cartmill Avenue within the City of Tulare, Tulare County, California. The HCP does not include any unlisted animal species or unlisted plant species. The following two federally listed species will be included as covered species in the applicant’s proposed HCP:

- San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) (endangered)
- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) (threatened)

For these covered species, the applicants would seek incidental take authorization. All species included in the incidental take permit would receive assurances under our “No Surprises” regulations (50 CFR 17.22(b)(5) and 17.32(b)(5)).

Activities proposed for coverage under the proposed incidental take permit (covered-activities) would be otherwise lawful activities that could occur consistent with the HCP, to include, but not be limited to:

- Widen and improve sections of existing roadway.
- Remove the existing Cartmill Avenue overpass, remove associated roadways and associated highway ramps, and dispose of those materials.
- Store equipment and supplies in a designated staging area.
- Construct a new Cartmill Avenue overpass, including a temporary structure (falsework). Construct new roadways and new highway ramps associated with the new overpass.

Subject: BRCP Newsletter & Public Workshops

From: Chris Devine

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2013 4:13 PM

Subject: BRCP Newsletter & Public Workshops

Winter 2013 BRCP Newsletter

Attached please find the Winter 2013 BRCP Newsletter. The newsletter is also available via the BRCP homepage at www.buttehcp.com. If you are on our mailing list, you will also receive a copy in the mail. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and receive a copy, just send an email containing your mailing address and we'll get one out to you.

Reminder - Upcoming BRCP Public Workshops

Public Workshops are scheduled for next week (see below for details) to review the major components of the Preliminary Public Draft Butte Regional Conservation Plan and solicit input. The project team will provide a PowerPoint presentation overviewing the major components of the draft plan, along with several informational stations providing additional information on BRCP specifics.

The public workshop dates/locations are:

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

2:00-4:00pm

Southside Community Center

2959 Wyandotte Avenue

Oroville, CA

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

6:00-8:00pm

Gridley City Council Chambers

685 Kentucky St

Gridley, CA

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

6:00pm-8:00pm

Chico Masonic Family Center

1110 W East Ave

Chico, CA

Reminder - Upcoming BRCP EIS/EIR Public Scoping Meetings

The BRCP EIS/EIR Public Scoping meetings are scheduled for this Wednesday, January 9th (see below for details). The purpose of these meetings is to solicit input related to the proposed scope and content of the BRCP EIS/EIR, as identified in the Notice of Intent (NOI) and Notice of Preparation (NOP) documents (see the BRCP website for more information <http://www.buttehcp.com/EISR/index.html>). The project team will provide a PowerPoint presentation along with numerous informational displays.

Oroville

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oroville City Council Chambers

1735 Montgomery Street

Oroville, CA 95965

Chico

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BCAG Conference Room

2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100

Chico CA 95928

Chris Devine

Planning Manager

Butte County Association of Governments

2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100

Phone (530) 879-2468

Fax (530) 879-2444

Email cdevine@bcag.org

www.bcag.org

www.buttehcp.com



Butte Regional CONSERVATION PLAN

BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

www.buttehcp.com

Winter 2013

Find the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP online

The Preliminary Public Draft BRCP is posted on our website and available for you to review. The Plan is posted in separate files for your online reading convenience.

Front matter includes the cover page, table of contents, and acronyms. Sections include BRCP's 12 chapters and appendices A through M. All figures and large tables are posted separately to allow fast and easy viewing. The Plan is available at buttehcp.com.

Comments from Participants in BRCP Development

"The Butte County Regional Habitat Conservation process compliments the Butte County General Plan 2030 implementation by providing valuable information and streamlined procedures to establish a clear future path for conservation and development."

Richard Price
Butte County Agricultural Commissioner

"Being a comprehensive approach, the BRCP will have a greater likelihood of success at balancing development and wildlife protection. And, it will improve interagency coordination and efficiency."

Mark Wolfe
City of Chico

"We see benefits from the BRCP as a voluntary tool to mitigate the effect of development on listed species while providing certainty and streamlining to the environmental review process."

Tim Snellings
Butte County

Butte Regional Conservation Plan — Preliminary Public Draft Released!

The Preliminary Public Draft Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) was released for public comment on November 30, 2012. This updated document may be found at buttehcp.com. The Preliminary Public Draft BRCP will be the focus of three upcoming public workshops.



Numerous groups and community members have been involved throughout the BRCP planning process. These dedicated groups include the BRCP Stakeholder Committee, established to represent diverse regional interests; the Steering Committee, comprised of City and County elected officials and planning professionals; and state and federal wildlife agencies that have been closely involved with the two committees throughout the planning process. Many of the changes and updates to this version of the Draft BRCP are reflective of suggestions and feedback provided by these committees and agencies on prior drafts of BRCP chapters and appendices released in 2011 and 2012.

The Preliminary Public Draft reflects many revisions and updated information. There is new information included in every chapter of the plan. Some of the new aspects and major revisions of the Draft BRCP include:

- An updated Covered Activities chapter including more detailed descriptions of each action; new sections covering emergency activities and activities not

covered under the BRCP.

• A detailed description of the BRCP implementation process including a schedule for conservation actions, description of regulatory assurances and neighboring landowner assurances, and an outline of the process for making future changes to the BRCP once adopted.

- Revisions to implementation cost assumptions and estimates and the impact fee structure.
- Updated mitigation requirements section, including expanded mitigation and conservation discussions for wetlands and riparian habitats.

The next steps in the development of the BRCP include receiving further input and feedback on the Preliminary Public Draft through three public workshops in January, receiving additional written public comments by January 31st, receiving input through County Board of Supervisors and City council meetings, and obtaining additional stakeholder feedback at a planned February Stakeholder Committee meeting. The BRCP team will then update the draft based on the feedback received. The formal Public Draft BRCP will be released in spring 2013 with the required joint Public Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS), followed by a 90-day formal public review period.



Learn about the BRCP and Provide Comments - BRCP's Public Workshops

The next round of BRCP public workshops are scheduled for January 2013 in Chico, Gridley and Oroville. Learn more details about the BRCP and its benefits in person at one of these sessions. Public Workshop details:

- Tuesday, January 15th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Oroville Southside Community Center
- Tuesday, January 15th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Gridley City Council Chambers
- Wednesday, January 16th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Chico Masonic Center

All three workshops will follow the same agenda and present the same information. The workshop format will include presentations by the project team followed by discussions at stations highlighting the main components of the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP.

BRCP Key Aspects/Major Components



The BRCP has a broad and comprehensive scope. The BRCP "Plan Area" covers approximately 560,000 acres of lowland and foothill Butte County and encompasses the cities of Chico, Oroville, Gridley, and Biggs. Natural and agricultural lands will be conserved and managed to preserve and enhance habitat for the covered species in the Plan Area while ensuring the long-term viability of working farms and ranches. The Plan covers 40 species of wildlife, fish, and plants, including Butte County meadowfoam, giant garter snake, and Swainson's hawk. The Plan provides compliance with federal and state endangered species laws for 50 years of future land and infrastructure development as envisioned under the county's and cities' general plans and the regional transportation plans.

The Conservation Strategy is built around designated Urban Permit Areas that encompass the primary areas for future urban growth and development and Conservation Acquisition Zones that are biogeographic units of the Plan Area within which specific conservation targets must be achieved. Over the next 50 years, a system of conservation lands will be assembled that protect natural communities, species habitat, and important ecological corridors while ensuring the continued viability of the agricultural lands that are an important component of the region's economy.

BRCP Also Addresses Wetlands and Riparian Conservation and Compliance

The BRCP includes comprehensive conservation of wetlands, including vernal pools, emergent wetlands (cattail and tule marshes), and managed wetlands (controlled flooded lands for waterfowl and shorebirds), and of riparian forest and scrub habitats (cottonwoods, willows, and valley oaks along streams). BRCP wetland and riparian habitat conservation measures are designed to provide compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (section 404 for wetlands protection and section 401 for water quality) and the California Fish and Game Code section that protects streams and associated riparian habitats from alteration (section 1602 streambed alteration agreements).

Butte County Meadowfoam to be Recovered from Endangered Status

Butte County meadowfoam is a small, annual plant that grows naturally only in the BRCP Plan Area. The BRCP provides conservation measures for this endangered species that, when implemented, should recover the species and allow for its eventual removal from federal and state endangered species lists.



CONSERVATION STRATEGY SNAPSHOT

- Biologically sound conservation strategy includes conservation at multiple ecological scales from landscape-level conservation to individual species-level conservation
- Comprehensive conservation measures that provide for the mitigation of impacts, conservation of ecosystems, and contribution to the recovery of endangered and threatened species
- Provides for conservation of natural communities and the ecological processes that support them
- The strategy is based on advice and review comments by an independent Science Advisory Panel
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management Programs ensure that the management of species habitats will be effective and improve over time



CONSERVATION MEASURES

- CM1** Protect Natural Communities
- CM2** Develop an Invasive Species Control Program
- CM3** Improve Urban Stormwater Water Quality
- CM4** Improve the Permeability of Linear Structures for Native Wildlife
- CM5** Restore Wetland and Riparian Habitats
- CM6** Enhance and Manage Protected Natural Communities
- CM7** Create and Maintain Greater Sandhill Crane Winter Roost Sites
- CM8** Maintain and Enhance Covered Species Habitat on Public and Easement Habitat Lands
- CM9** Improve Fish Habitat and Survival
- CM10** Conserve Butte County Meadowfoam
- CM11** Conduct Surveys to Locate and Protect New Occurrences of Butte County Checkerbloom
- CM12** Reestablish Occurrences of Conservancy Fairy Shrimp, Ahart's Dwarf Rush, Hoover's Spurge, Hairy Orcutt Grass, Slender Orcutt Grass, and Greene's Tuctoria

126,345
acres

Total habitat protected under BRCP

24,725
acres

Total impacts of species habitat from covered activities

2012

Preliminary Public BRCP Draft.

2013

Public workshops in Chico, Oroville, and Gridley

Public Draft EIS/EIR

Public Draft BRCP released for formal review

Public workshops



New Permitting Process Under BRCP

Figure 1. Existing Permitting Process

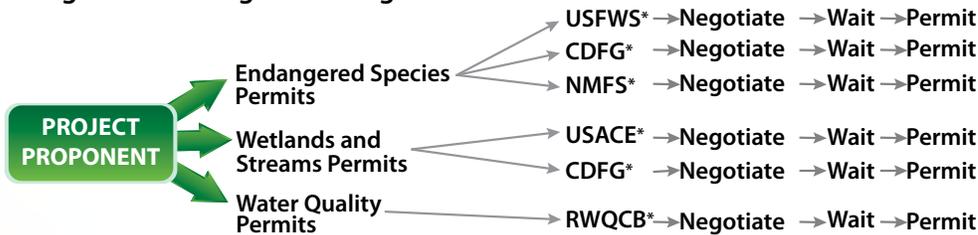
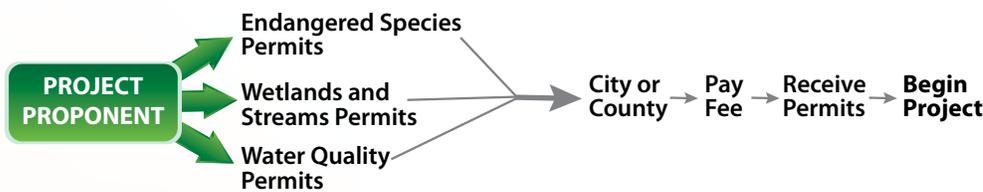


Figure 2. Permitting Process Under the BRCP



Under the current endangered species and clean water act processes (Figure 1), project proponents must coordinate and negotiate on their own with the state and federal regulatory agencies to determine what mitigation requirements will be needed in order to receive environmental permits. If a project proponent needs to purchase mitigation lands, or construct wetlands as part of their mitigation, state and federal agencies must also review and approve that work. These processes are unpredictable as to the time to complete and final cost to the project proponents.

With the BRCP, the process will be greatly simplified (Figure 2). Specific biological surveys will be required to be completed by project proponents. Results of these surveys will be used to determine project impacts on sensitive habitats and any required species and habitat avoidance measures. Based on the type of habitat and number of acres impacted a fee will be calculated. Once this fee is paid, the project proponent will receive the permits from the local city or county planning department at the same time local approvals are provided. Coordination with the federal and state resource agencies will have already been completed through the prior development of the BRCP. This simpler, more predictable process will save time and money for project proponents and better protect the region's natural resources and sensitive species and habitats.

* USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service
CDFG: California Department of Fish and Game
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service
USACE: United States Army Corps of Engineers
RWQCB: Regional Water Quality Control Board

2014

Final EIS/EIR

Final BRCP adopted
by cities and county

Federal and State permits issued

SHARED BENEFITS OF THE BRCP

COMMUNITY

- Strengthened regional economies
- Protection of Butte County's scenic landscapes and open space
- Community empowerment through inclusion and partnering in the planning and implementation process

AGRICULTURALIST

- New source of income from voluntary agricultural conservation easements
- Long-term conservation of irrigated farmlands and rangelands
- Varied voluntary opportunities for participation
- Neighboring landowner assurances

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS

- Large scale, coordinated conservation of species as opposed to "piecemeal" mitigation
- Multi-species, natural community, and ecosystem protection, resulting in a large, integrated conservation lands system specifically managed for high habitat function
- Increased ability to adapt and respond to future changes, including the effects of climate change
- New opportunities for grant funding for habitat conservation, including habitat management in-perpetuity

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Local control of development and land use where federal and state endangered species will be affected
- Collaborative and coordinated long term solutions to land use conflicts
- Streamlined environmental and wetland permitting for local agency public works and land development projects including roadway improvement projects, bike and pedestrian facilities, new schools, libraries, parks, etc.

BUSINESS OWNERS

- Clear and simplified regulatory process for endangered species and wetlands compliance with one-stop approvals at the local level
- "Economies of scale" allow for more cost effective species protection
- Greater regulatory certainty, consistency and predictability



**Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meetings
for an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan**

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) for western Butte County. This regional plan, encompassing 564,270 acres in the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County, serves as a habitat conservation plan pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, and is designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities and sensitive species, while accommodating other important land uses. The BRCP addresses state and federal endangered species compliance requirements for the County of Butte and the cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley, BCAG, the California Department of Transportation District 3, Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, and the BRCP Implementing Entity that will be established to implement the BRCP for activities and projects in the BRCP Plan Area that they conduct or approve. Permit Applicants will seek incidental take authorizations for a period of up to 50 years.

BCAG is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and the Service is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with NEPA, the Service is publishing a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register*.

Please send written comments on or before January 30, 2013 regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR. All comments received, including names and addresses of commenters, will become part of the official record and will be made public. Written comments should be directed to:

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
Butte County Association of Governments
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928
Fax: (530) 879-2444
Email: cdevine@bcag.org

Two public scoping meetings will be held to provide an overview of the BRCP and obtain written and/or oral comments on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

Oroville

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Oroville City Council Chambers
1735 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Chico

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
BCAG Conference Room
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico CA 95928

Persons needing special accommodations in order to attend one of the public scoping meetings should contact Chris Devine at (530) 879-2468 no later than 1 week before the public meeting.

For additional information regarding the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, please visit <http://www.buttehcp.com>.

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: 916/414-6600
Fax: 916/414-6713
Website: <http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/>

For Immediate Release

December 14, 2012
Media Contacts:
Sarah Swenty, sarah_swenty@fws.gov, (916) 414-6571

News Release



Public Input Sought Regarding the Scope of the Environmental Document for a Plan Proposed to Streamline Permitting and Offset Impacts to Endangered Species in Butte County *Public Input Sought at Two Meetings in January*

Sacramento – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) intend to work together to preserve endangered species and streamline development permitting in the process. To do that they plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for 564,270 acres in the lowlands and foothills of western Butte County. The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is being prepared to preserve the Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *Californica*), a critically endangered species occurring only in Butte County, a total of 40 species (26 animals and 14 plants), and wetlands within the BRCP permit area. A Notice of Intent will be published on December 14, 2012 and is available for viewing in the *Federal Register* at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-14/pdf/2012-30182.pdf>. A Notice of Preparation for the EIS/EIR will be released on the same date by BCAG and is available for review online at <http://www.buttehcp.com/>.

Two scoping meetings will be held on January 9, 2012 for the public to provide written input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. The scoping meetings will be held, one at the Oroville City Council Chambers, 1735 Montgomery Street, Oroville, California from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The second meeting will be held in the City of Chico, BCAG Conference Room, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, California from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These meetings will be identical in format and content.

The public scoping meetings are separate from the BRCP public workshops that will be held on January 15 and 16, 2013, for which the purpose is to present the main components of the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP. For more information on the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP and its associated public workshop dates, please visit: <http://www.buttehcp.com/>.

America's fish, wildlife, and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species a shared responsibility. Together with the local community, the state and federal agencies are working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

The BRCP will serve as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the federal Endangered Species Act, and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. HCPs and NCCPs are federal and state plans that allow for a streamlined permitting process because conservation measures are laid out, agreed upon and implemented on a landscape scale that is most beneficial for the species involved, humans included.

Before those plans can be completed, an EIS/EIR must be prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. They will describe the underlying purpose and need of the BRCP—for the Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to issue permits to the permit applicants, include an analysis of the effects of implementation of the BRCP on the human environment, consider and evaluate a range of alternatives, and describe the existing environment that could be affected by approval and implementation of the BRCP.

For more detailed information regarding the EIS/EIR or the public scoping meetings, visit <http://www.buttehcp.com/>. Persons needing special accommodations in order to attend scoping meetings should contact Chris Devine at (530) 879-2468 no later than one week before the public meeting.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov/cno. Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/usfwspacificsouthwest>, follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSPacSWest>, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_pacificsw.

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News Release

Plan Proposed to Streamline Permitting and Offset Impacts to Endangered Species in Butte County

Public Input Sought at Two Meetings in January

DECEMBER 14, 2012

Media Contacts:

Robert Moler, robert_moler@fws.gov, (916) 414-6606

Sacramento – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) intend to work together to preserve endangered species and streamline development permitting. To do that, they plan to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for 564,270 acres in the lowlands and foothills of western Butte County. The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is being prepared to preserve the Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *Californica*), a critically endangered species occurring only in Butte County, along with 40 other species (27 animals and 14 plants total) and wetlands within the BRCP permit area. The public comment period on the scope of the EIS/EIR begins December 14, 2012, and ends January 28, 2013.

Two scoping meetings will be held on January 9, 2012, for the public to provide written input on the scope and content of the EIS/EIR. The first scoping meeting will be held at the Oroville City Council Chambers, 1735 Montgomery Street, Oroville, California from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The second meeting will be held in the BCAG Conference Room, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, California from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These meetings will be identical in format and content.

The public scoping meetings on the 9th are separate from the BRCP public workshops that will be held on January 15 and 16, 2013. At those meetings the public will be able to learn about the main components of the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP. For more information on the Preliminary Public Draft BRCP and its associated public workshop dates, please visit: <http://www.buttehcp.com/>.

America's fish, wildlife, and plant resources belong to all of us, and ensuring the health of imperiled species a shared responsibility. Together with the local community, the state and federal agencies are working to actively engage conservation partners and the public in the search for improved and innovative ways to conserve and recover imperiled species.

The BRCP will serve as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the federal Endangered Species Act, and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. HCPs and NCCPs are federal and state plans that allow for a streamlined permitting process because conservation measures are laid out, agreed upon, and implemented on a landscape scale that is most beneficial for the species involved - humans included.

Before those plans can be completed, an EIS/EIR must be prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They will describe the underlying purpose and need of the BRCP for the Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to issue permits to the permit applicants. An EIS/EIR will include an analysis of the effects of implementation of the BRCP on the human environment, consider and evaluate a range of alternatives, and describe the existing environment that could be affected by approval and implementation of the BRCP.

Written comments will be accepted at the January 9th meetings and by one of the following methods. Please note that your comments are in reference to the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP):

- **U.S. Mail:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605, Sacramento, CA 95825.
- **In-Person Drop-off, Viewing, or Pickup:** Call 916-414-6600 to make an appointment during regular business hours to drop off comments or view received comments at the above U.S. mail address.
- **Fax:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 916-414-6713, Attn.: Mike Thomas.

More Information

Federal Register Notice
(208 KB)

For more detailed information regarding the EIS/EIR or the public meetings, visit <http://www.buttehcp.com/>. Persons needing special accommodations in order to attend scoping meetings should contact Chris Devine at (530) 879-2468 no later than one week before the public meeting.

Last updated: December 17, 2012

Conservation plan would alter Butte County environmental permit process

By STEVE SCHOONOVER-City Editor Chico Enterprise-Record

Posted:

Chicoer.com

Chicoer.com

Two sets of workshops are slated this week and next on a plan that should reduce some of the environmental hurdles for projects in Butte County, while doing a better job of protecting the environment.

Under development since 2007, the Butte Regional Conservation Plan is still about a year from completion.

It takes a regional approach toward addressing environmental impacts, replacing the current project-by-project system.

As things now stand, if someone wants to develop a piece of property, some level of environmental review can be required.

That review could have to be submitted to as many agencies as the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Fisheries Service and Corps of Engineers. It's a lengthy, unwieldy and uncertain process.

The agencies might require the developer to find and buy land in a mitigation bank or find a private party willing to sell conservation easements to offset environmental impacts.

If the Regional Conservation Plan were in effect, the same developer could walk into his city or county planning department with the environmental review, pay a fee and walk out with approval to get going, according to Chris Devine, planning manager for the Butte County Association of Governments.

BCAG is the lead agency in development of the Regional Conservation Plan, and will be responsible for implementing it if it is approved.

What it is

Devine said the Conservation Plan considers — as a whole — the environmental impacts of all the land use activities allowed under the Butte County, Chico, Gridley and Biggs general plans. Activities of four irrigation districts and Caltrans' road construction plans for the next 50 years are also included.

An overall mitigation plan for those environmental impacts has been drafted.

It will involve purchase of conservation easements, credits from mitigation banks and buying land to restore habitat. The fee developers and others pay to their city or county planning department will cover those costs.

The overall approach will allow for more coherent conservation areas than are preserved by the uncoordinated project-by-project system in place now.

The plan is general, with habitat acreage goals. But with one exception, specific areas are not targeted for conservation.

"There's enough habitat out there that we don't have to be specific," Devine said. "We only need a portion." That allows limiting purchases to willing sellers.

The one exception is three areas along the east and north of Chico that are the "motherlode" for Butte County meadowfoam. It's one of the 40 endangered or threatened species the plan seeks to protect. The list also includes species that might become threatened in the future.

How it works

Devine said the plan, when approved by the federal and state agencies, will essentially provide the cities, county and other participants a 50-year "incidental take" permit. That permit recognizes human activity might kill some individual species of concern, but that enough mitigation is in place to ensure their overall survival.

Anyone undertaking any of the activities covered under the Regional Conservation Plan that conform to the applicable general plan would be covered by the overarching incidental take permit. They wouldn't have to negotiate with the individual resource agencies.

Paradise isn't a party to the plan because there aren't many endangered species above a line low in the foothills that is the eastern boundary of the 564,270-acre conservation plan area.

Development of the plan has cost \$2 million to \$3 million thus far, with most of the money coming from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants. Caltrans has also kicked in some money.

Butte is one of 10 north-state counties now developing a regional conservation plan, or that already have one in place. The other counties are Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Placer, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and San Joaquin.

EIR/EIS 'scoping' meetings

The meetings this week are a bit esoteric. They're to take comment on what the environmental impact report/environmental impact statement required for the plan should look into. They don't go into the plan at all.

"We'll have to create some wetlands and restore some habitat," Devine offered as an example. "That'll involve getting out there with tractors which have air impacts and traffic impacts. We have to consider that."

The two meetings are Wednesday: 2-4 p.m. in the Oroville City Council Chambers, 1735 Montgomery St.; and 6-8 p.m. in the BCAG conference room, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace in Chico.

"We'll say, 'Here's what we're proposing to evaluate,'" Devine said. "'Does this seem reasonable?'"

Comments can also be mailed to Devine at Butte County Association of Governments, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, CA, 95928; or faxed to 879-2444, or emailed to cdevine@bcag.org.

Comments are due by Jan. 31.

Public workshops on the actual plan set in Oroville, Chico, Gridley

Workshops scheduled Jan. 15 and 16 will actually look at the preliminary public draft of the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, which can be viewed at www.buttehcp.com. Drafts are also available for viewing at the Chico, Oroville and Gridley libraries.

BCAG staff will be on hand to explain the background and progress of the plan, answer questions and take comments. The meetings will be:

OROVILLE — 2-4 p.m. Jan. 15, Southside Community Center, 2959 Lower Wyandotte Ave.

GRIDLEY — 6-8 p.m. Jan. 15, City Council Chambers, 685 Kentucky St.

CHICO — 6-8 p.m. Jan. 16, Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Ave.

A comment form is online at the website above. Again, comments can be mailed to Chris Devine at Butte County Association of Governments, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, CA, 95928; or faxed to 879-2444, or emailed to cdevine@bcag.org.

Comments are due by Jan. 31.

City Editor Steve Schoonover can be reached at 896-7750, sschoonover@chicoer.com; or followed on Twitter @ER_sschoonover.

Attachment B

- Display boards
- Power Point presentation
- Fact sheet
- Comment card templates



Butte Regional
CONSERVATION PLAN
BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

Welcome

**Welcome to the Public Scoping Meetings for the
Butte Regional Conservation Plan Environmental
Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report**



Butte Regional CONSERVATION PLAN BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

About the Plan

Overview

The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is a joint federal Habitat Conservation Plan and state Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The BRCP is being prepared by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) on behalf of the Permit Applicants:

- City of Biggs
- City of Chico
- City of Gridley
- City of Oroville
- County of Butte
- Caltrans District 3
- Western Canal Water District
- Richvale Irrigation District
- Biggs-West Gridley Water District
- Butte Water District
- BCAG
- BRCP Implementing Entity

The Permit Applicants are applying for incidental take permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to authorize take of certain state- and federally listed species during the course of otherwise lawful activities.

The HCP/NCCP is referred to as the Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP), and is a required component of the application for these permits.

This BRCP—a required component of the application for the incidental take permits—will provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities, sensitive species, and the habitats upon which those species depend, while accommodating other land uses.

The BRCP serves as a habitat conservation plan (HCP) pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a natural community conservation plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA).

BRCP Plan Area

The Plan Area encompasses 564,270 acres in western Butte County and is bounded on the west by Glenn and Colusa Counties; on the south by Sutter and Yuba Counties; and on the north by Tehama County.

Environmental Compliance

In order to address federal and state requirements for environmental review of the BRCP, BCAG and the USFWS are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively. Other agencies involved in the development of the EIS/EIR include:

CEQA Responsible Agencies

- Permit Applicants
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

CEQA Trustee Agencies

- CDFW

NEPA Cooperating Agencies

- The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)



Covered Species

Amphibians

- Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
- Western Spadefoot Toad



Birds

- American Peregrine Falcon
- Bald Eagle
- Bank Swallow
- California Black Rail
- Greater Sandhill Crane
- Swainson's Hawk
- Tricolored Blackbird
- Western Burrowing Owl
- Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- White-tailed Kite
- Yellow-breasted Chat



Fish

- Central Valley Steelhead
- Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon
- Central Valley Fall/Late Fall-run Chinook Salmon
- Chinook Salmon Fall Run
- Green Sturgeon
- River Lamprey
- Sacramento Splittail



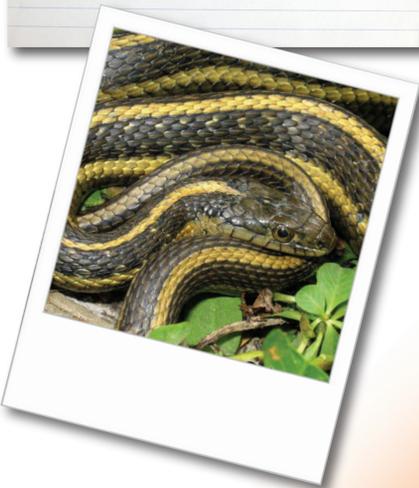
Plants

- Ahart's Dwarf Rush
- Ahart's Paronychia
- Butte County Checkerbloom
- Butte County Golden Clover
- Butte County Meadowfoam
- California Beaked-rush
- Ferris' Milkvetch
- Greene's Tuctoria
- Hairy Orcutt Grass
- Hoover's Spurge
- Lesser Saltscale
- Veiny Monardella
- Red Bluff Dwarf Rush
- Slender Orcutt Grass



Reptiles

- Blainville's Horned Lizard
- Giant Garter Snake
- Western Pond Turtle



Invertebrates

- Conservancy Fairy Shrimp
- Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle
- Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp
- Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

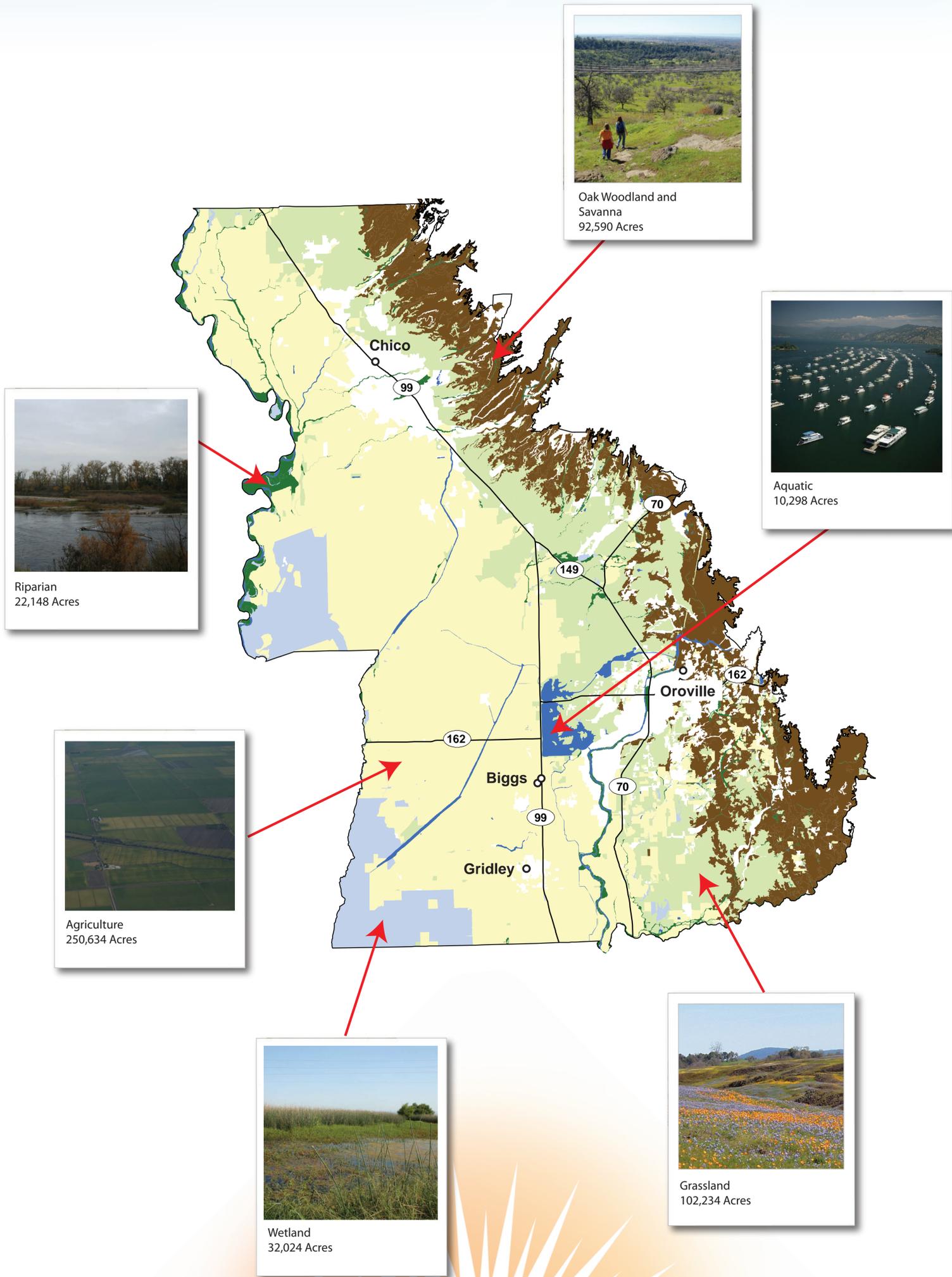




Butte Regional CONSERVATION PLAN

BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

The Planning Area – 564,270 Acres





Benefits of the HCP/NCCP

Communities

- Strengthened regional economies
- Protection of scenic habitat and landscapes
- Proactive approach to conservation and development
- Involvement in planning

Local Governments

- Local control of endangered species permitting
- Long term solutions to land use conflicts
- More thorough protection for region's environmental resources

Business Owners, Landowners & Developers

- Streamlined regulatory process
- "Economies of scale" allow more efficient mitigation
- Greater regulatory certainty, consistency and predictability

Agriculturalists

- Varied opportunities for participation
- Source of income from conservation programs
- Farm land protections

Environmental interests

- Large scale conservation instead of "piecemeal"
- Multi-species and habitat protection — better habitat
- Ability to adapt and respond to changes
- Increased opportunities for grant funding for habitat conservation

Counties in Northern California Developing HCP/NCCPs

- Yuba County
- Sutter County
- Yolo County
- Solano County
- Placer County
- Sacramento County
- Contra Costa County



Butte Regional CONSERVATION PLAN BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

Public Involvement



List of Expertise on Science Panel

- Conservation biology
- Botany
- Herpetology
- Ornithology
- Grassland ecology and management
- Aquatic and fisheries biology
- Wetlands and waterfowl management
- Vernal pool ecology and invertebrates

Public Involvement Opportunities



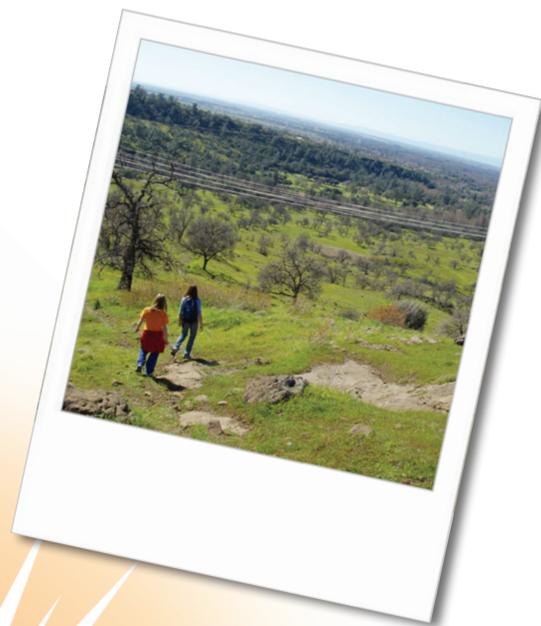
Current Stakeholder Committee Members

- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- California Native Plant Society
- Building Industry
- Butte County Farm Bureau
- Western Canal Water District
- Altacal Audubon Society
- Ducks Unlimited
- Butte County Agricultural Commission
- California State University, Chico
- Sierra Club
- Butte Environmental Council
- Caltrans District 3

How the Process is Organized

The Steering Committee and a Stakeholder Committee form the core of the public involvement process. The committees' meetings are open to the public and are convened on a regular basis to share pertinent information and ensure a balanced and thorough review of the Plan at every stage.

In addition, the independent Science Advisory Panel, Planning Directors Group, Wildlife Agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), and BCAG staff and consultants coordinate together to develop the Plan.





What is a HCP/NCCCP

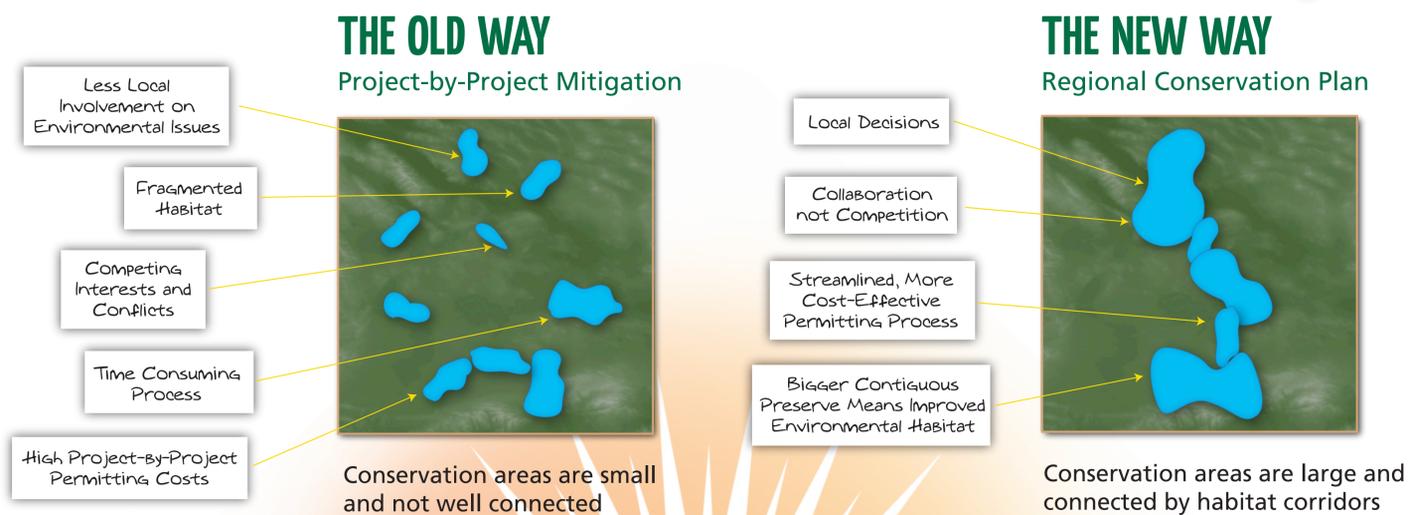
What is a Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan?

- A planning process that brings federal, state and local governmental agencies and community stakeholders together to protect natural resources and provide reasonable development opportunities.
- Replaces a piecemeal, project-by-project process of addressing development impacts
- Takes a larger view of conservation planning
- Allows for more efficient project decisions, a local approach and better habitat protection



Why a Conservation Plan for Butte County?

- To offer a smart, simple and environmentally sensitive way for the Butte County region to grow and develop
- To integrate the development goals of each city's and the county's General Plan into the Butte Regional Conservation Plan to achieve long-term economic, ecological and conservation goals



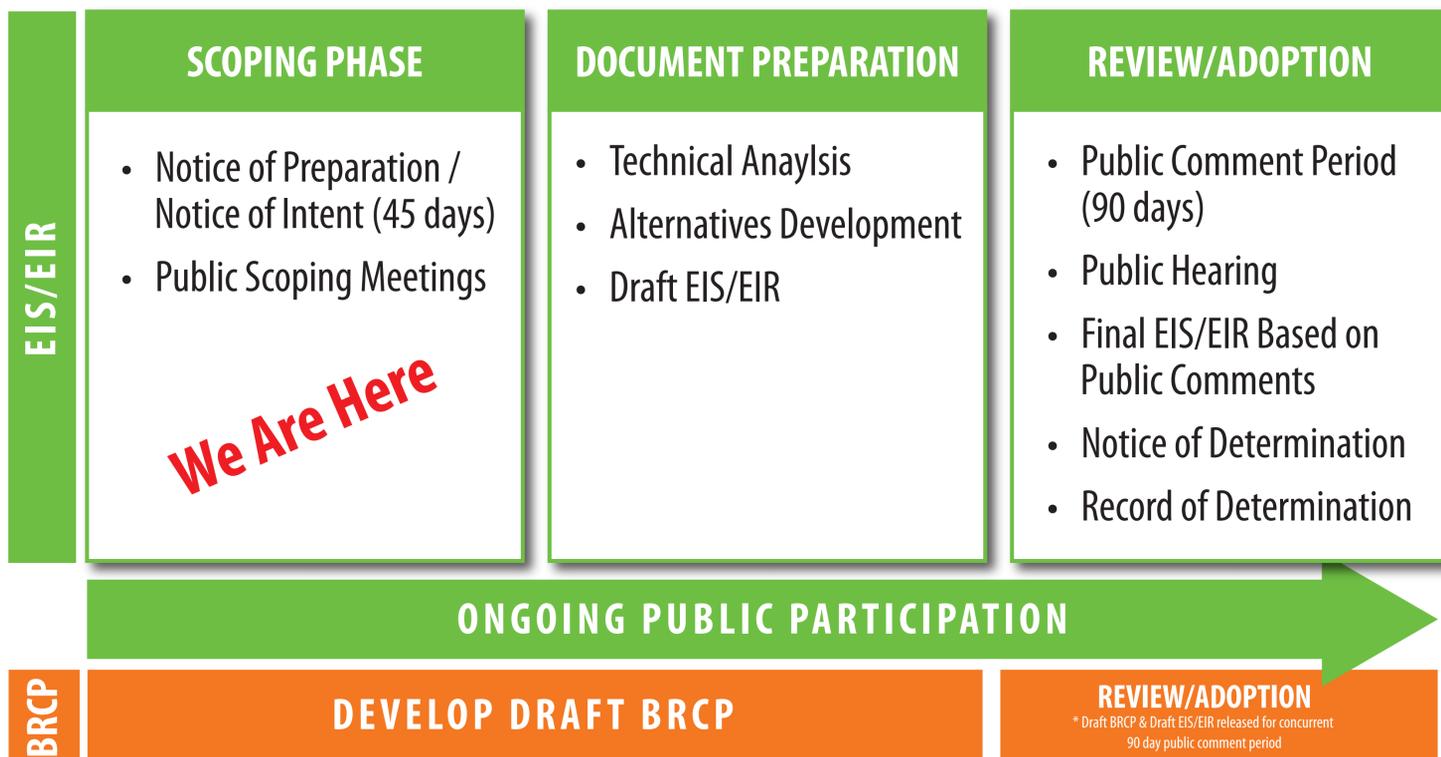


The Environmental Review Process

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

BCAG and the Service are holding two public scoping meetings to solicit suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives for BCAG and the Service to consider when drafting the environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) for the BRCP. The EIS/EIR will evaluate a range of alternatives to determine what effects each could have on the natural and built environments. The EIS/EIR will also propose mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant effects.

EIS/EIR Process



An environmental impact statement/environmental impact report serves a number of purposes:

- Gives the public an opportunity to provide input on issues and possible impacts
- Serves as a source of data and a resource tool for the project
- Identifies potential environmental impacts of the alternatives under consideration
- Allows decision makers the opportunity to consider the environmental impacts of a project before making a decision



Butte Regional
CONSERVATION PLAN
BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

WELCOME

**EIS/EIR Public Scoping Sessions
Butte Regional Conservation Plan**

January 9, 2013

Oroville

**Oroville Council Chambers
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Chico

**BCAG Conference Room
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**





Why are we here?

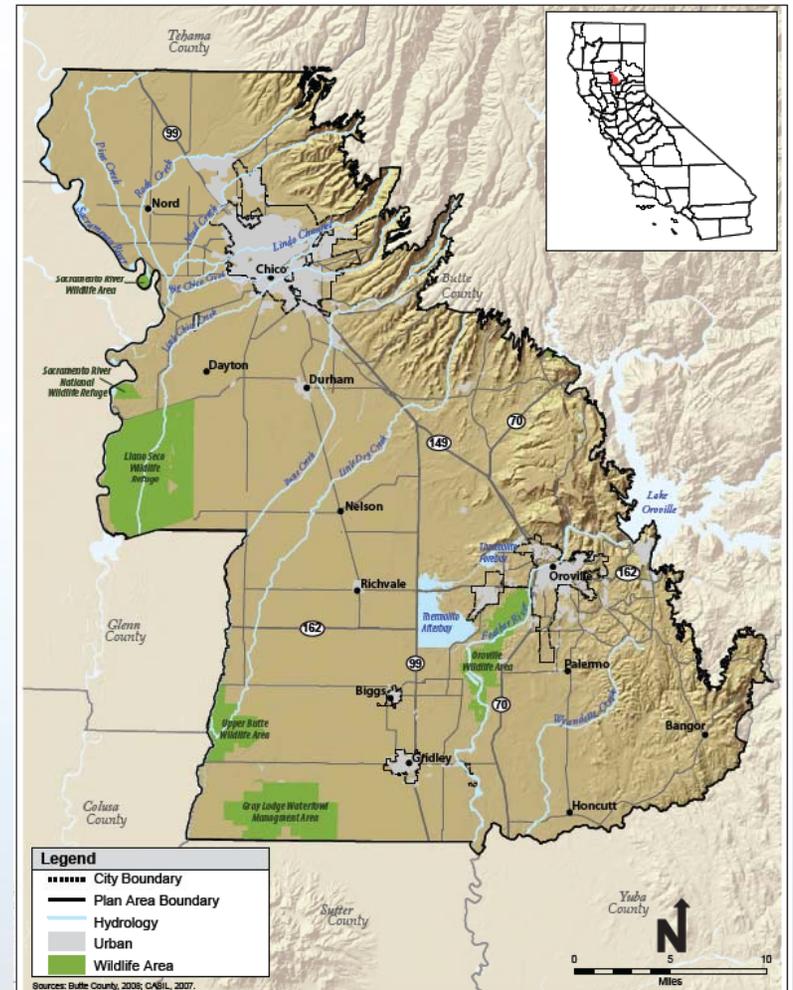
- ▶ To obtain feedback on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ Environmental Impact Review (EIR)
- ▶ Provide overview of Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP)
- ▶ Explain roles of Applicants and Permitting Agencies
- ▶ Explain Endangered Species Acts (ESAs)
- ▶ Explain federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
- ▶ Describe environmental review process





Overview of the BRCP

- ▶ History
- ▶ Geographic Scope
- ▶ Covered Species
- ▶ Covered Activities
- ▶ Status of Plan Document





Who are we?

▶ **Permit Applicants**

- ▶ Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG)
- ▶ Local Agencies: County of Butte and cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley
- ▶ CA Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 3
- ▶ Western Canal Water District, Biggs-West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District
- ▶ BRCP Implementing Entity





Who are we? (Cont.)

▶ **Permitting Agencies**

- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- ▶ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

▶ **Consultants**

- ▶ Conservation Plan: SAIC
- ▶ EIS/EIR: ICF International





Relationship Between Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- ▶ What is NEPA?
- ▶ What is ESA?
 - ▶ Mechanisms to authorize incidental take of federally-listed species
- ▶ Why is NEPA triggered?
- ▶ Focus of scoping meeting





Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

- ▶ Trigger for EIS
- ▶ Notice of Intent (NOI)/Scoping
- ▶ Prepare Draft EIS
- ▶ Prepare Final EIS
- ▶ Agency Decision
 - ▶ Record of Decision (ROD)



Relationship Between Clean Water Act (CWA) & NEPA

- ▶ Goal of the Clean Water Act
- ▶ CWA administration and enforcement
 - ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- ▶ Current process and purpose of integrating into BRCP
- ▶ Integration of CWA Section 401
 - ▶ Regional Water Quality Control Board
- ▶ NEPA requirements





Relationship Between California Endangered Species Act (CESA) & California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- ▶ What is CEQA?
- ▶ What is CESA?
- ▶ Two ways to authorize incidental take under California law
 - ▶ Incidental Take Permit (Section 2081 Fish and Game Code, under Section 2050 et seq. of CESA)
 - ▶ Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) (Section 2800 et seq. Fish and Game Code)
- ▶ Why is CEQA triggered?
 - ▶ All NCCPs subject to CEQA, but, unlike federal process, CDFW is not the lead agency for the EIS/EIR.





Environmental Impact Review (EIR) Process

- ▶ Lead Agency (BCAG) issues Notice of Preparation (NOP) to Responsible and Trustee Agencies (CA Department of Fish & Wildlife is one)
- ▶ Draft EIR Preparation
- ▶ Written Comments Received
- ▶ Responses to Comments Sent
- ▶ Lead Agency Decision Made
- ▶ Notice of Determination (NOD) Filed on Project





Purpose of Scoping

- ▶ Inform public about the project
- ▶ Identify interested parties
- ▶ Identify environmental factors to be considered
- ▶ Identify significant issues
- ▶ Identify potential alternatives



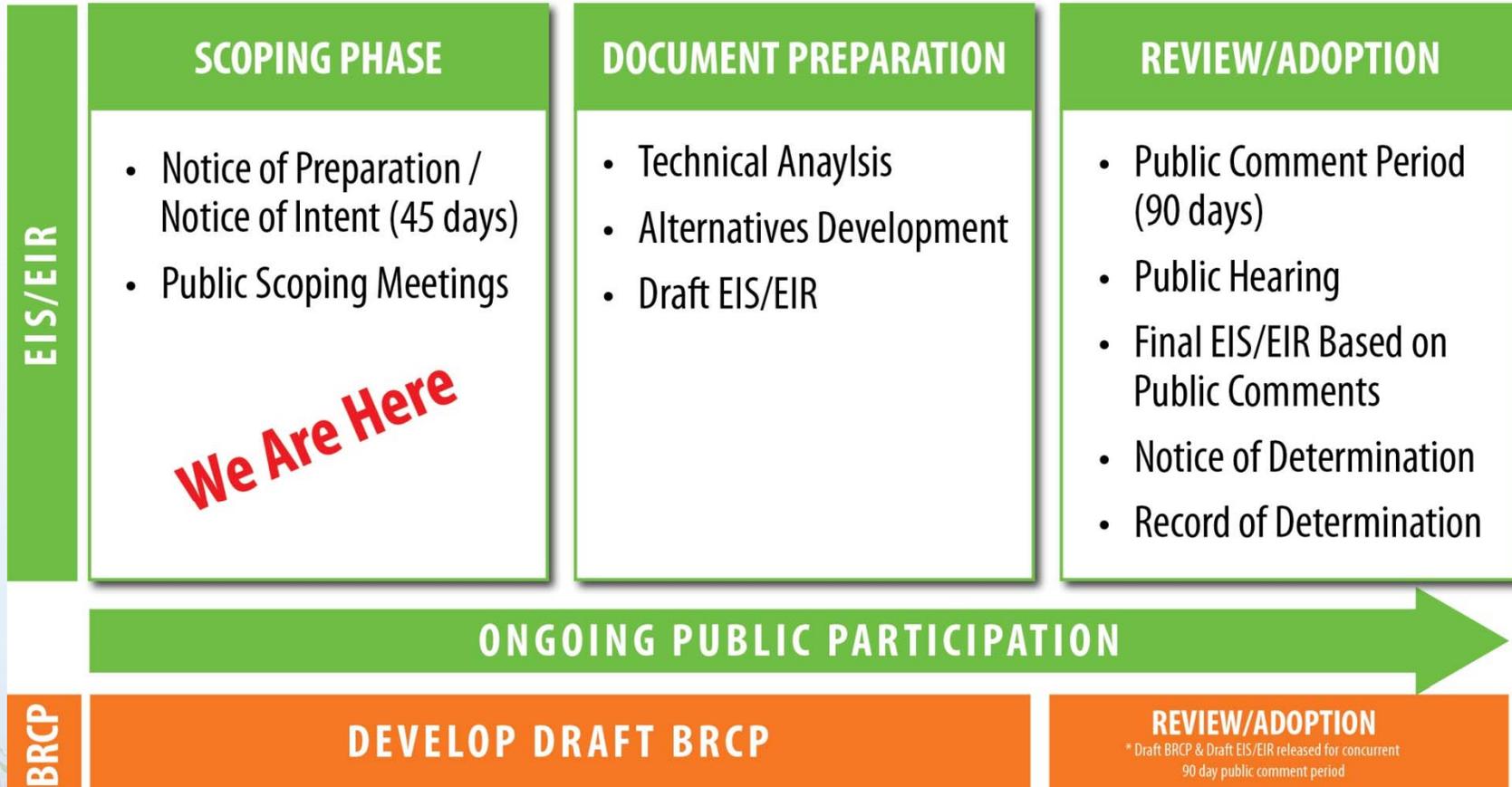


Environmental Issues Considered

- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Agriculture/Forestry
- ▶ Air Quality
- ▶ Biological Resources
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Geology/Soils/Mineral Resources
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ▶ Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- ▶ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ▶ Land Use/Planning
- ▶ Noise
- ▶ Population/Housing
- ▶ Public Services/Recreation
- ▶ Utilities/Service Systems
- ▶ Transportation/Traffic
- ▶ Growth Inducement
- ▶ Cumulative Effects
- ▶ Socioeconomic Effects
- ▶ Environmental Justice



EIS/EIR Process



ONGOING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DEVELOP DRAFT BRCP

REVIEW/ADOPTION

* Draft BRCP & Draft EIS/EIR released for concurrent 90 day public comment period



Identify Potential Alternatives

- ▶ Proposed Action – issuance of permits
- ▶ No Action – no issuance of permits (project-by-project permitting)
- ▶ Variations of Action Alternatives





Variations of Action Alternatives

- ▶ Reduction in Scope of Permits (Reduced Impacts)
- ▶ Variations in Conservation Strategy
- ▶ Variation in Permit Duration
- ▶ Variations in Covered Species
- ▶ Variations in Covered Activities
- ▶ Reduction in Permit Area
- ▶ Some combination of these elements





Public Comments Encouraged

- ▶ All comments must be received no later than January 30, 2013
- ▶ We are soliciting comments on the CEQA/NEPA document, not the HCP/NCCP.
- ▶ Written comments are encouraged
- ▶ Best comments are specific





How to Comment

- ▶ Verbal Comments
 - ▶ At one of today's public meetings
 - ▶ Oroville City Council Chambers 2:00pm – 4:00pm
 - ▶ BCAG Conference Room 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- ▶ Written
 - ▶ Comment Cards: Available Today (submit today or mail in)
 - ▶ Email: cdevine@bcag.org
 - ▶ Mail: Chris Devine, Planning Manager, Butte County Association of Governments, 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, CA 95928
 - ▶ Faxed Comments
 - ▶ (916) 414-6713 [USFWS]
 - ▶ (530) 879-2444 [BCAG]



Ongoing Public Input Opportunities

- ▶ Community Meetings
 - ▶ Habitat Plan development, review and approval
 - ▶ Public meetings on Draft and Final BRCP and EIS/EIR
- ▶ Website: www.buttehcp.com
- ▶ Stakeholder Meetings
 - ▶ 1st Wednesday of each month from 11am to 3pm in the BCAG Conference Room





For More Information

- ▶ Butte Regional Conservation Plan website: www.buttehcp.com
- ▶ USFWS website: www.fws.gov
- ▶ NMFS website: www.nmfs.noaa.gov
- ▶ USACE website: www.usace.army.mil
- ▶ CDFW website: www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp





QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS





Butte Regional

CONSERVATION PLAN

BALANCING GROWTH AND CONSERVATION

The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is a joint federal Habitat Conservation Plan and state Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The BRCP encompasses 564,270 acres in western Butte County and is bounded on the west by Glenn and Colusa Counties; on the south by Sutter and Yuba Counties; and on the north by Tehama County.

The goal of the BRCP is to replace the current project-by-project environmental and wetland permitting programs (administered by state and federal regulatory agencies), with an alternative permitting program that is smarter, faster, results in better resource conservation, and is administered by the participating cities and Butte County.

The BRCP is being prepared by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) on behalf of the Permit Applicants that include:

- City of Biggs
- City of Chico
- City of Gridley
- City of Oroville
- County of Butte
- Caltrans District 3
- Western Canal Water District
- Richvale Irrigation District
- Biggs-West Gridley Water District
- Butte Water District
- BCAG
- BRCP Implementing Entity

The Permit Applicants are applying for incidental take permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to authorize take of certain state- and federally listed species during the course of otherwise lawful activities. The BRCP is a required component of the application for these permits.

Covered Activities

The activities that will be covered by the permit streamlining provided by the BRCP generally include:

- All land development activities identified in General Plans
- Residential, commercial, public facilities, and industrial construction (homes, businesses, schools, etc.)
- Transportation projects (roadway improvement projects, bike/pedestrian projects, transit improvements)
- Recreational facilities (parks, playgrounds, pedestrian bridges, golf courses, etc.)

Permit Streamlining

The BRCP is seeking to provide streamlined permitting for the following permitting programs:

- U.S. Endangered Species Act (Section 10, Section 7)
- California Endangered Species Act (Section 2835)
- U.S. Clean Water Act Section 404 (via Programmatic General Permit/Simplified Permit Program)
- U.S. Clean Water Act Section 401 (via Programmatic Water Quality Certification on Programmatic General Permit)
- California Department of Fish and Game Section 1600 Streambed Alteration

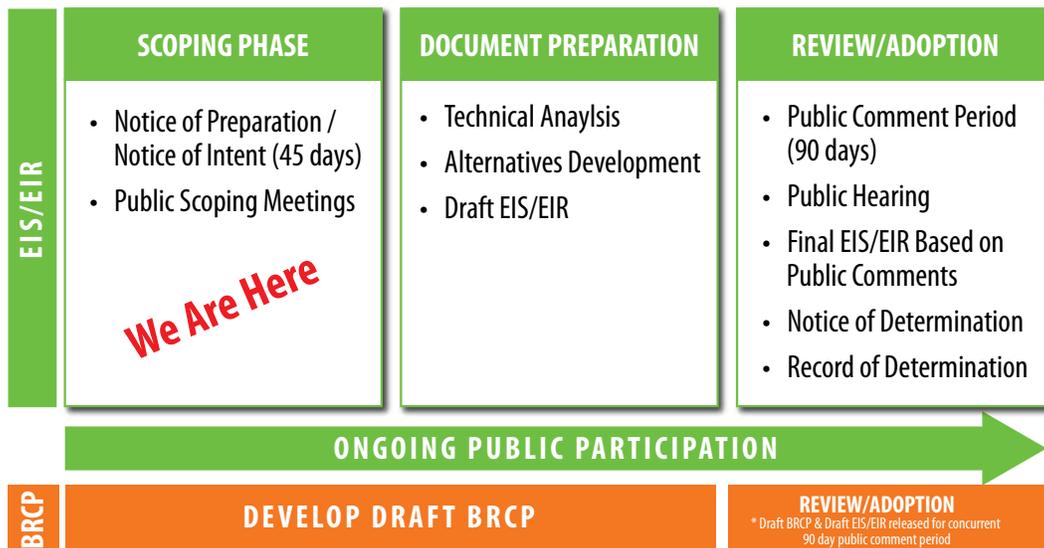
Overview of Environmental Review Process

The BRCP must undergo environmental review to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) before the BRCP is adopted and permits are issued. BCAG is the lead agency under CEQA, and USFWS is the lead agency under NEPA. Public participation is integral to the environmental review process, as it is to the development of the BRCP.

BCAG and USFWS are holding these public scoping meetings on January 9, 2013 to solicit suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives for BCAG and USFWS to consider when drafting the environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR). The purpose of the EIS/EIR is to evaluate a range of alternatives to the BRCP to determine what effects each could have on the natural and built environments. The EIS/EIR will also propose mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant effects.

The graphic below illustrates the environmental review process, and the parallel BRCP development process.

EIS/EIR Process



The tentative schedule for developing and finalizing the BRCP is as follows.

- Preliminary Public Draft BRCP document released for review: November 30, 2012
- Formal Public Draft BRCP document released for review: spring 2013
- Adoption and permitting of BRCP: late 2013-early 2014

The scoping period, when public comments will be accepted related to the content and scope of the EIS/EIR will run from December 14, 2012 to January 30, 2013. Written comments should be directed to:

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
 Butte County Association of Governments
 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100, Chico, CA 95928
 Fax: (530) 879-2444, Email: cdevine@bcag.org

For additional information about the BRCP, covered species, participating agencies, or the environmental process, visit www.buttehcp.com.

Key Contacts

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
 Butte County Association of Governments
 Phone: (530) 879-2468, Email: cdevine@bcag.org

Mike Thomas, Branch Chief
 USFWS Sacramento Office, Conservation Planning Branch
 Phone: (916) 414-6600, Email: Mike_Thomas@fws.gov

PLEASE FOLD ALONG THIS LINE FOR MAILING

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
Butte County Association of Governments
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Chris Devine, Planning Manager
Butte County Association of Governments
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928

Attachment C

- Comments received
- Attendee sign-in sheet templates

Scope of EIS / EIR for Butte Regional Conservation Plan: Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition
January 31, 2013

By: Mount Lassen Chapter – California Native Plant Society

Atmospheric N-deposition is a scientifically documented threat to California ecosystems and numerous threatened and endangered species (Fenn et al. 2010, Weiss 2006). There are N-sensitive habitats in Butte County, especially vernal pools and grasslands. Atmospheric nitrogen deposition greatly increases the growth of annual grasses and other weeds. Grasslands in the Lassen Foothills and valley floor in Butte County are estimated to exceed the critical load for enhanced annual grass invasions (Figure 9 in Fenn et al. 2010, copied below). Vernal pools in Butte County are especially susceptible to being overrun by annual grasses in the absence of grazing (Barry 1996) as they are elsewhere in the Central Valley (Marty 2005).

As part of the proposed regional HCP, this threat to biodiversity should be explicitly considered and appropriate mitigations developed. In Santa Clara County, precedent-setting mitigation for nitrogen deposition has been implemented for three gas-fired powerplants and Highway 101 widening, and is being implemented at a regional scale in the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (www.scv-habitatplan.org). Mitigations include acquisition and easements to prevent outright development, continuation and fine-tuning of grazing regimes to reduce the cover of annual grasses, and weed management. Another nitrogen deposition mitigation project is the Otay Mesa Generating Plant in San Diego County (http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/otaymesa/documents/2000-10-13_OTAY_MESA_FSA.PDF) and a proposed new powerplant nearby (http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/piopico/documents/applicant/2011-11-30_Applicants_Biological_Assessment_TN-63008.pdf).

The USFWS has developed considerable expertise in addressing nitrogen deposition through the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan, and that expertise should be applied to Butte County.

References:

Barry, S. Managing the Sacramento Valley Vernal Pool Landscape to Sustain the Native Flora. Pp. 236-240 in: C.W. Witham, E.T. Bauder, D. Belk, W.R. Ferren Jr., and R. Ornduff (Editors). *Ecology, Conservation, and Management of Vernal Pool Ecosystems – Proceedings from a 1996 Conference*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. 1998.

Fenn, M.E., E.B. Allen, S.B. Weiss, S. Jovan, L.H. Geiser, G.S. Tonnesen, R.F. Johnson, L.E. Rao, B.S. Gimeno, F. Yuan, T. Meixner, A. Bytnerowicz. (2010). Nitrogen critical loads and management alternatives for N-impacted ecosystems in California. *Journal of Environmental Management* 91:2402-2423.

Marty, J. T. 2005. Effects of cattle grazing on diversity in ephemeral wetlands. *Conservation Biology* 19:1626–1632.

Weiss, S. B. 2006. *Impacts of Nitrogen Deposition on California Ecosystems and Biodiversity*. California Energy Commission, PIER Energy-Related Environmental Research. CEC-500-2005-165.

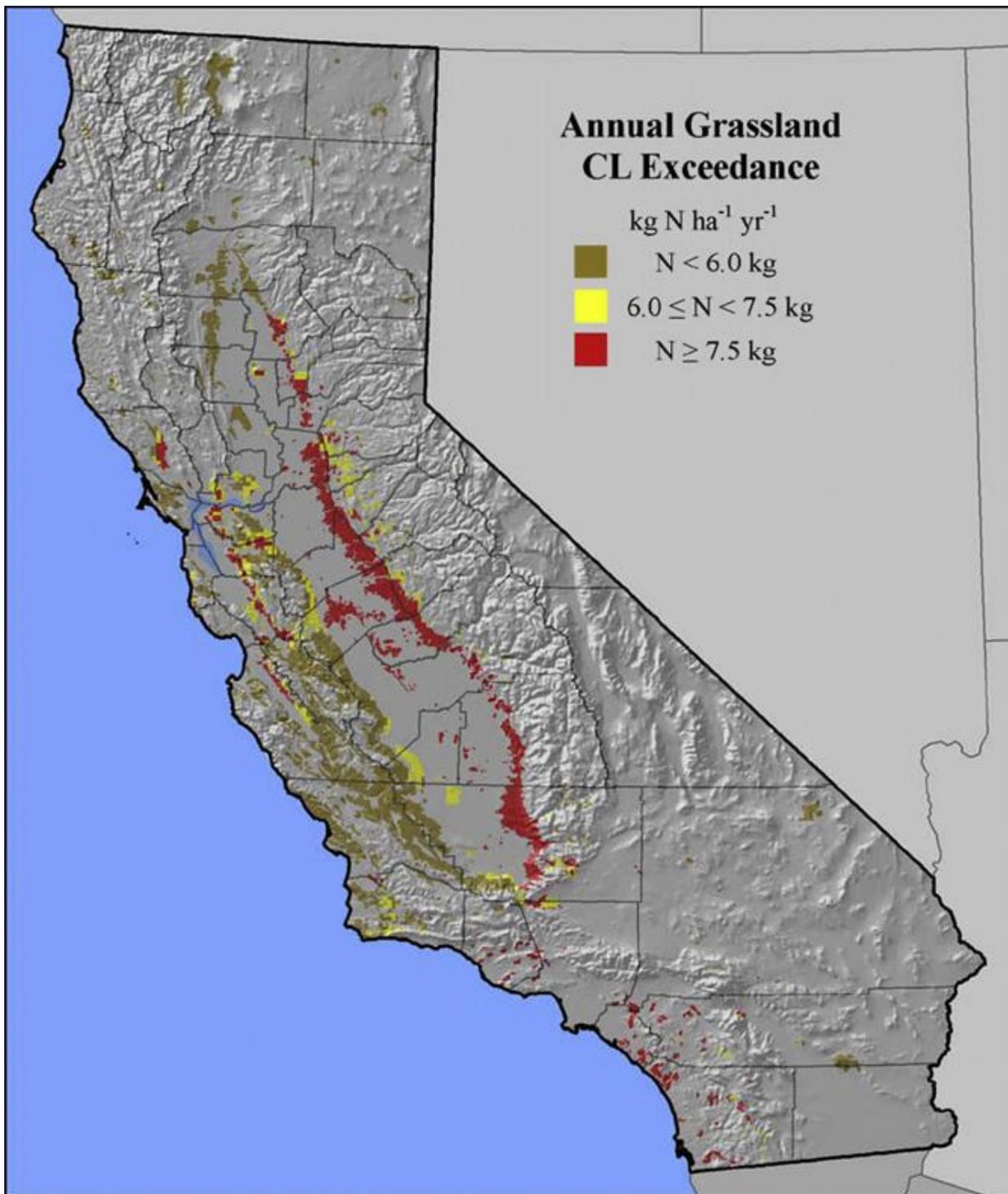


Fig. 9. Critical load exceedance map for annual grassland showing exceedance of the critical load for plant community changes. The CL for grassland (6.0 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹) is based on a roadside gradient study in serpentine grassland. Because of the uncertainty in extrapolating this CL to other grasslands, the CL exceedance for a CL of 7.5 kg ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ is also presented.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
 915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 (916) 653-4082
 (916) 657-5390 - Fax



January 11, 2013

Chris Devine
 Butte County Association of Governments
 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
 Chico, CA 95928

RE: SCH# 2012122026, Butte Regional Conservation Plan, Butte County

Dear Mr. Devine:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines 15064(b)). To comply with this provision the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on historical resources within the area of project effect (APE), and if so to mitigate that effect. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts to archaeological resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search. The record search will determine:
 - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
 - A Sacred Lands File Check. **USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle name, township, range, and section required**
 - A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. **Native American Contacts List attached**
- ✓ Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Rob Wood
 Associate Government Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse

Native American Contact List
Butte County
January 11, 2012

RECEIVED JAN 14 2013

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Cultural Resources Rep
5 Tyme Way Tyme Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966
gmix@berrycreekrancheria.com
(530) 534-3859
(530) 534-1151 FAX

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Gary Archuleta, Chairperson
#1 Alverda Drive Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966 KonKow / Concow
frontdesk@mooretown.org
(530) 533-3625
(530) 533-3680 Fax

Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
Dennis E. Ramirez, Chairperson
125 Mission Ranch Blvd Mechoopda Maidu
Chico , CA 95926 Concow
dramirez@mechoopda-nsn.gov
(530) 899-8922 ext 215
(530) 899-8517 - Fax

KonKow Valley Band of Maidu
Patsy Seek, Chairperson
1706 Sweem Street KonKow / Concow
Oroville , CA 95965 Maidu
(530) 533-1504

Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Kyle Self, Chairperson
PO Box 279 Maidu
Greenville , CA 95947
kself@greenvillerrancheria.com
(530) 284-7990
(530) 284-6612 - Fax

T si-Akim Maidu
Eileen Moon, Vice Chairperson
1239 East Main St. Maidu
Grass Valley , CA 95945
530-274-7497

Maidu Nation
Clara LeCompte
P.O Box 204 Maidu
Susanville , CA 96130

Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
James Sanders, Tribal Administrator
#1 Alverda Drive Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966 KonKow/Concow
(530) 533-3625
(530) 533-3680 FAX

Butte Tribal Council
Ren Reynolds
1693 Mt. Ida Road Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966
(530) 589-1571

Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
James Edwards, Chairperson
5 Tyme Way Tyme Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966
gmix@berrycreekrancheria.com
(530) 534-3859
(530) 534-1151 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH# 2012122026, Butte Regional Conservation Plan, Butte County

Native American Contact List
Butte County
January 11, 2012

RECEIVED JAN 14 2013

Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Art Angle, Vice Chairperson
2133 Monta Vista Avenue Maidu
Oroville , CA 95966
eranch@cncnet.com
(530) 532-9214
(530) 532-1768 FAX

Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians
Glenda Nelson, Chairperson
2133 Monta Vista Ave Maidu
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Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
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19630 Placer Hills Road Nisenan - So Maidu
Colfax , CA 95713 Konkow
530-637-4279 Washoe

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH# 2012122026, Butte Regional Conservation Plan, Butte County

RECEIVED DEC 17 2012



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

Notice of Preparation

December 13, 2012

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Butte Regional Conservation Plan
SCH# 2012122026

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Butte Regional Conservation Plan draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Chris Devine
Butte County Association of Governments
2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
Chico, CA 95928

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Morgan".

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2012122026
Project Title Butte Regional Conservation Plan
Lead Agency Butte County Association of Governments

Type NOP Notice of Preparation
Description NOTE: Review Per Lead

The Butte Regional Conservation Plan, encompassing 564,270 acres in the western lowlands and foothills of Butte County, serves as a habitat conservation plan pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, and a natural community conservation plan under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, and is designed to provide long-term conservation and management of natural communities and sensitive species, while accommodating other important land uses. The BRCP addresses state and federal endangered species compliance requirements for the County of Butte and the cities of Oroville, Chico, Biggs, and Gridley, BCAG, the California Department of Transportation District 3, Western Canal Water District, Biggs West Gridley Water District, Butte Water District, Richvale Irrigation District, and BRCP Implementing Entity.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Chris Devine
Agency Butte County Association of Governments
Phone (530) 879-2468 **Fax**
email
Address 2580 Sierra Sunrise Terrace, Suite 100
City Chico **State** CA **Zip** 95928

Project Location

County Butte
City Chico, Biggs, Gridley, Oroville
Region

Cross Streets

Lat / Long

Parcel No.

Township	Range	Section	Base
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Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools
Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Cal Fire; Office of Historic Preservation; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game, Region 2; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 3 N; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Redding)

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

Date Received 12/13/2012

Start of Review 12/13/2012

End of Review 01/30/2013

Resources Agency

- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Nicole Wong
- California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman
- Dept. of Conservation
Elizabeth Carpenter
- California Energy Commission
Eric Knight
- Cal Fire
Dan Foster
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
James Herota
- Office of Historic Preservation
Ron Parsons
- Dept of Parks & Recreation
Environmental Stewardship Section
- California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery
Sue O'Leary
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam
- Dept. of Water Resources Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

- Depart. of Fish & Game
Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division
- Fish & Game Region 1
Donald Koch

- Fish & Game Region 1E
Laurie Harnsberger
- Fish & Game Region 2
Jeff Drongesen
- Fish & Game Region 3
Charles Armor
- Fish & Game Region 4
Julie Vance
- Fish & Game Region 5
Leslie Newton-Reed
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 6
Gabrina Gatchel
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 6 I/M
Brad Henderson
Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game M
George Isaac
Marine Region

Other Departments

- Food & Agriculture
Sandra Schubert
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Depart. of General Services
Public School Construction
- Dept. of General Services
Anna Garbeff
Environmental Services Section
- Dept. of Public Health
Jeffery Worth
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water
- Delta Stewardship Council
Kevan Samsam

Independent Commissions, Boards

- Delta Protection Commission
Michael Machado
- Cal EMA (Emergency Management Agency)
Dennis Castrillo

Business, Trans & Housing

- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Philip Crimmins
- Caltrans - Planning
Terri Pencovic
- California Highway Patrol
Suzann Ikeuchi
Office of Special Projects
- Housing & Community Development
CEQA Coordinator
Housing Policy Division

Dept. of Transportation

- Caltrans, District 1
Rex Jackman
- Caltrans, District 2
Marcelino Gonzalez
- Caltrans, District 3
Gary Arnold
- Caltrans, District 4
Erik Alm
- Caltrans, District 5
David Murray
- Caltrans, District 6
Michael Navarro
- Caltrans, District 7
Dianna Watson

- Native American Heritage Comm.
Debbie Treadway
- Public Utilities Commission
Leo Wong
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration
Guangyu Wang
- State Lands Commission
Jennifer Deleong
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Cherry Jacques

Cal EPA

Air Resources Board

- Airport/Energy Projects
Jim Lerner
- Transportation Projects
Douglas Ito
- Industrial Projects
Mike Tollstrup

State Water Resources Control Board

Regional Programs Unit
Division of Financial Assistance

State Water Resources Control Board

Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality

State Water Resources Control Board

Phil Crader
Division of Water Rights

Dept. of Toxic Substances Control

CEQA Tracking Center

Department of Pesticide Regulation

CEQA Coordinator

- Caltrans, District 8
Dan Kopulsky
- Caltrans, District 9
Gayle Rosander
- Caltrans, District 10
Tom Dumas
- Caltrans, District 11
Jacob Armstrong
- Caltrans, District 12
Marlon Regisford

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB 4
Teresa Rodgers
Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)
- RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office
- RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)
- RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)

Other _____

Conservancy

Appendix B
Screening of Alternatives

Table B-1. First Tier Screening of Alternatives to BRCP

List of Potential Alternatives	First Tier Screening Criteria					Score (# of "Possibly")	Carried Forward to Second Tier Screening?
	<i>Provide for long-term conservation and management of covered species in the Plan Area at a regional scale; allow for compatible future land uses and development under general plans.</i>	<i>Provide for a streamlined endangered species permitting process.</i>	<i>Provide a means to implement covered activities in a manner compliant with applicable state and federal fish and wildlife protection laws.</i>	<i>Coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements in laws and regulations related to biological and natural resources in the Plan Area.</i>	<i>Support issuance of a master streambed alteration agreement (MSAA) from CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, a programmatic wetlands permit (e.g., programmatic general permit) from USACE under Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the RHA, and/or a regional water quality certification by the Central Valley Water Board under Section 401 of the CWA.</i>		
Reduction in Covered Species	Not likely because this plan would only address conserving habitat for currently endangered and threatened species (less than half of the proposed covered species). Habitat requirements for non-covered special-status species would not directly be provided and any habitat benefits non-covered species received from covered species habitat conservation would be ancillary. Thus, this alternative would not provide for long-term conservation and management in the Plan Area on a regional scale.	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	4	Yes
Reduction in Permit Area	Not likely because it would not include the city covered activities; therefore, it would not provide long-term conservation and management while allowing for land uses and continued growth under the city general plans.	Not likely because it would not include city covered activities and thus cities would be required to process permits on a project-by-project basis such that they would not be integrated into the habitat conservation efforts that occur within the county. This would not make the process more predictable for future development in the cities. It could also create confusion for water and irrigation districts whose service areas are located in both cities and the county.	Possibly	Not likely because the Plan Area includes the cities and their SOIs, and this alternative would specifically exclude the cities. Therefore, it is unlikely that mitigation and compensation requirements of the county areas included within the Permit Area would be coordinated and standardized with the cities.	Possibly	2	No
Increase in Permit Area	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	5	Yes
Reduced Development/ Reduced Fill	Not likely because it would not allow for land uses and development as specified under the approved general plans of the Local Agencies within the Plan Area.	Not likely because the coverage provided by this potential alternative would be inconsistent with the approved growth plans and development identified in approved general plans of the Local Agencies within the Plan Area. Therefore, the coverage of species would not "balance" growth, but actually reduce it.	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	3	Yes

List of Potential Alternatives	First Tier Screening Criteria					Score (# of "Possibly")	Carried Forward to Second Tier Screening?
	<i>Provide for long-term conservation and management of covered species in the Plan Area at a regional scale; allow for compatible future land uses and development under general plans.</i>	<i>Provide for a streamlined endangered species permitting process.</i>	<i>Provide a means to implement covered activities in a manner compliant with applicable state and federal fish and wildlife protection laws.</i>	<i>Coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements in laws and regulations related to biological and natural resources in the Plan Area.</i>	<i>Support issuance of a master streambed alteration agreement (MSAA) from CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, a programmatic wetlands permit (e.g., programmatic general permit) from USACE under Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the RHA, and/or a regional water quality certification by the Central Valley Water Board under Section 401 of the CWA.</i>		
HCP/2081 Conservation Plan (i.e., Reduced Conservation)	Possibly	Not likely and Possibly. The HCP/2081 would provide the same level of streamlining for the federal ESA compliance as an HCP/NCCP because the HCP components of the plan (federal covered species and conservation strategy) would likely be the same or similar as the BRCP. However, the HCP/2081 would not provide the same level of permit streamlining for state ESA compliance because fewer species would be listed in this plan (10 instead of 40 in the BRCP) and effects on the non-listed species would be handled outside of the HCP/2081 process, thus resulting in a non-streamlined permitting process.	Not likely because it would not include provisions to satisfy NCCPA requirements and, therefore, would not provide the means to implement covered activities that would comply with CESA (through the NCCPA).	Not likely because it would not include provisions to satisfy NCCP requirements and, therefore, would not result in a coordination or standardization of mitigation between ESA and CESA (through the NCCPA).	Possibly	3	Yes
Greater Conservation	Possibly	Not likely because greater conservation would increase the cost of the BRCP by approximately \$185,553,000 (32%). In turn, this would increase development fees by a similar or greater proportion and put greater pressure on public funding sources, thus potentially reducing the ability of the process to be streamlined.	Possibly	Possibly	Possibly	4	Yes
No PGP or LOP Issued by USACE	Unknown. Although it would include the conservation measures and conservation strategy of the BRCP, it would only consider effects on waters of the United States, including wetlands, on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, it is unknown if it would actually result in the long-term conservation and management of species in the Plan Area on a regional scale.	Not likely because effects would be considered on waters of the United States, including wetlands, on a project-by-project basis such that they would not be integrated into the habitat conservation efforts that occur within the county and would not make the process more predictable for future development in the cities.	Possibly	Not likely because effects would be considered on waters of the United States, including wetlands, on a project-by-project basis such that coordination and standardization for mitigation and compensation requirements would not occur between ESA, CESA, NEPA, CEQA, the CWA, and other applicable laws and regulations related to biological and natural resources within the Plan Area.	Not likely because effects would only be considered on waters of the United States, including wetlands, on a project-by-project basis and thus no programmatic wetlands permit could be issued as the projects would be treated individually.	2	No

List of Potential Alternatives	First Tier Screening Criteria					Score (# of "Possibly")	Carried Forward to Second Tier Screening?
	<i>Provide for long-term conservation and management of covered species in the Plan Area at a regional scale; allow for compatible future land uses and development under general plans.</i>	<i>Provide for a streamlined endangered species permitting process.</i>	<i>Provide a means to implement covered activities in a manner compliant with applicable state and federal fish and wildlife protection laws.</i>	<i>Coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements in laws and regulations related to biological and natural resources in the Plan Area.</i>	<i>Support issuance of a master streambed alteration agreement (MSAA) from CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, a programmatic wetlands permit (e.g., programmatic general permit) from USACE under Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the RHA, and/or a regional water quality certification by the Central Valley Water Board under Section 401 of the CWA.</i>		
No Fill/No PGP	Not likely because it would not allow for compatible future land uses and development under the Local Agencies' general plans within the Plan Area and the regional transportation plan as USACE would not permit any development allowed by the Local Agencies' general plans within the Plan Area that affects waters or wetlands of the United States.	Not likely because it would not allow for compatible future land uses and development under the Local Agencies' general plans within the Plan Area as USACE would not permit any development allowed by the Local Agencies' general plans within the Plan Area that affects waters or wetlands of the United States.	Possibly	Not likely because avoiding all jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, would be logistically infeasible and cost prohibitive. It would not govern public and private actions equally or consistently because the action would likely need to be modified depending on the type and extent of jurisdictional waters, including wetlands. This is ultimately expected to result in delays and expenses.	Not likely because no permit would be required.	1	No

- CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- BRCP = Butte Regional Conservation Plan.
- HCP/NCCP = Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan.
- ESA = Endangered Species Act.
- CESA = California Endangered Species Act.
- CWA = Clean Water Act.
- HCP/2081 = Habitat Conservation Plan/281.
- NCCPA = Natural Communities Conservation Plan Act.
- LEDPA = Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative.
- NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act.
- CEQA = California Environmental Quality Act.
- PGP = Programmatic General Permit.
- LOP = Letter of Permission.

Table B-2. Second Tier Screening of Alternatives to BRCP

List of Potential Alternatives	Second Tier Screening Criteria	Score (# of Unknown or Possibility)	Carried Forward to Third Tier Screening?
Reduction in Covered Species	<p><i>Avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental effects of, or potentially address one or more significant issues related to, the proposed action.</i></p> <p>Not likely because a reduction in covered species, while maintaining the covered activities identified in many of the general plans of Local Agencies, could result in significant environmental effects on species of special status or concern. These effects would not be offset by the conservation strategy or conservation lands established because they would not include these types of species. Therefore, it is not expected this potential alternative would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental effects of the proposed action.</p>	0	No
HCP/2081 Conservation Plan (i.e., reduced conservation)	<p>Not likely because a reduction of listed species (10 instead of 40), while maintaining the covered activities identified in many of the general plans of the Local Agencies, could result in significant environmental effects to listed species that are not covered. These effects would not necessarily be offset by the conservation strategy or conservation lands established because the amount of conservation would be less as the HCP/2081 would be required to mitigate the impacts of the covered species but not contribute to species recovery. Therefore, it is not expected this potential alternative would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental effects of the proposed action.</p>	0	No
Increase in Permit Area	<p>Unknown because while there would be an increase in the Permit Area to include the town of Paradise and the rest of Butte County and, thus, an expected increase in the natural communities and habitats associated with that area, it would also increase the type and number of covered activities (e.g., development in and around Paradise). Therefore, it is unknown if this potential alternative would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant environmental effects of the proposed action.</p>	1	Yes
Reduced Development/Reduced Fill	Possibly	1	Yes
Greater Conservation	Possibly	1	Yes

List of Potential Alternatives	Third Tier Screening Criteria							Score (# of Likely or Yes)	Carried Forward to Analysis in EIS/EIR?
	<i>Substantial marginal costs compared to those of the proposed action such that a reasonably prudent public agency would not proceed with, or it would be impracticable to proceed with, the potential alternative.</i>	<i>Substantial implementation time compared with that of the Proposed Action would result in the potential alternative not meeting the project purpose or objectives within an acceptable time frame</i>	<i>Technology or physical components required would be clearly technically infeasible</i>	<i>Construction, operation, and/or maintenance of the potential alternative would violate any federal or state statutes or regulations</i>	<i>Outcomes could be clearly undesirable from a policy standpoint</i>	<i>Would the potential alternative involve an increase in direct impacts to waters of the U.S</i>	<i>Would the potential alternative involve an increase in direct impacts to special aquatic sites</i>		
Increase in Permit Area	Likely. The expanded Permit Area would bring in numerous additional natural communities, habitats, covered species and land uses that would add substantial time and costs to the development of the BRCP. Participating jurisdictions are also likely to perceive the costs and delays to be unacceptable such that they would not proceed with the alternative. Therefore, marginal costs compared to those of the proposed action are expected to be substantial such that it would be impractical to proceed with this potential alternative.	Likely. The expanded permit area would add to the natural communities, covered species, and land uses. The additional time to accommodate these natural communities and covered species and land uses would extend the plan schedule substantially. Therefore, implementing this alternative would likely cause substantial delays when compared to the proposed action.	Not likely	Not likely	Likely. It would be generally considered desirable to have the Permit Area be larger and include other natural communities, covered species, and land uses. However, because of the time and cost associated with included the additional area in Butte County, it would likely lead to an undesirable balancing of economic and environmental factors for the municipalities. For example, the costs associated with including the additional area may be prohibitive and, thus, not yield the potential environmental benefits associated with including the town of Paradise.	Likely. Because the Permit Area would increase, it would likely include more waters of the United States that would be affected by covered activities.	Likely. Because the Permit Area would increase, it would likely include more special aquatic sites that would be affected by covered activities.	5	No
Reduced Development/ Reduced Fill	Unknown. This potential alternative could result in lower efficiency and cost effectiveness because there are lower economies of scale with less development and a smaller conservation strategy. However, it would be expected that a reduction in development in the different municipalities and special districts in the Plan Area would reduce overall costs of development. But the actual development fees for the HCP/NCCP would likely be higher on a per acre basis under this potential alternative because there would be less development overall. Therefore, it is unknown if the marginal costs compared to those of the proposed action are expected to be substantial such that it would be impractical to proceed with this potential alternative.	Not likely	Not likely	Not likely	Unknown. Given that this potential alternative would result in lower efficiency and cost effectiveness and a smaller conservation strategy, it is expected the outcome could not reflect a reasonable balancing of relevant factors, specifically economic and environmental.	Not likely	Not likely	0	Yes
Greater Conservation	Unknown. While it would be expected that an increase in conservation lands would potentially increase the cost of this potential alternative, when compared to the Proposed Action, it is unknown whether municipalities and special districts in the Plan Area would consider these costs substantial such that they would not proceed with this potential alternative. Depending on the funding strategy, these increased costs could increase development fees, public funding, or both. For example, greater conservation would increase the cost of the BRCP by approximately \$185,553,000 (32%). In turn, this would increase development fees by a similar or greater proportion and put greater pressure on public funding sources.	Not likely	Not likely	Not likely	Unknown. This potential alternative would result in a larger conservation strategy. However it is unknown if the costs would substantially increase when compared to the BRCP. Therefore, it is unknown if the outcome would not reflect a reasonable balancing of relevant factors, specifically economic and environmental.	Not likely	Not likely	0	Yes

Appendix C

**Summary of General Plan EIR Impact Determinations
and Mitigation Measures**

Butte County General Plan 2030 – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: Butte County General Plan 2030, Final EIR Chapter 2 - Report Summary

This document has been reprinted from the Draft EIR with necessary changes made in this Final EIR shown in double underline and ~~strikethrough~~.

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
AESTHETICS					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to aesthetics.</i>					
AGRICULTURE					
AG-1: Although the goals, policies, actions and regulations of General Plan 2030 would reduce and partially offset the conversion of farmland, the proposed project designates approximately 4,700 acres of farmlands of concern under CEQA for non-agricultural uses.	✓		SU	These parcels are small, so they may no longer be viable for current agricultural practices. They are also located close to existing urbanized areas, which General Plan 2030 targets as appropriate locations for future growth. Placing or keeping an agricultural designation on these scattered parcels would make General Plan 2030 internally inconsistent. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
AG-2: Although the goals, policies, actions and regulations of General Plan 2030 would reduce and partially offset conflicts with Williamson Act contracts, the proposed project designates approximately 90 acres of lands with existing Williamson Act contracts for residential or industrial uses.	✓		SU	The parcels with Williamson Act conflicts are small, and many are located close to existing urbanized areas or established unincorporated communities, which General Plan 2030 targets as appropriate locations for future growth. Small parcels may no longer be viable for current agricultural practices. Placing or keeping an agricultural designation on these parcels would make General Plan 2030 internally inconsistent. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
AG-3: Although the goals, policies, actions and regulations of General Plan 2030 would reduce and partially offset regional agricultural impacts, the proposed project would contribute to cumulatively significant agricultural impacts in the region.		✓	SU	The amount of growth foreseen in the region and the decisions of surrounding counties regarding conversion of agricultural land are outside the control of Butte County. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
AIR QUALITY					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to air quality.</i>					
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES					
BIO-1: General Plan 2030 contains extensive goals, policies, and actions that mitigate impacts to undeveloped lands that support sensitive biological resources, including special-status species, sensitive natural communities, federally-protected wetlands, and wildlife and fish movement corridors, to a less-than-significant level and that additionally minimize the effects of development on biological resources in general. Development resulting under General Plan 2030 would contribute to the on-going loss of undeveloped lands that support such sensitive biological resources in Butte County. The cumulative loss of habitat and sensitive natural communities in Butte County could potentially contribute to a general decline for the region, and might result in the loss or displacement of wildlife that would have to compete for suitable habitats with existing adjacent populations.		✓	SU	This change would occur as an intrinsic part of the land use changes allowed under General Plan 2030 to accommodate the expected continued growth of population and economic activity in Butte County over the next 20 years, and development outside Butte County would be beyond the County's ability to regulate or control. Therefore, there is no feasible mitigation available to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level, and the impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
CULTURAL RESOURCES					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to cultural resources.</i>					
GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND MINERAL RESOURCES					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to geology, soils, and mineral resources.</i>					
HAZARDS AND SAFETY					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to hazards and safety.</i>					

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY					
HYDRO-1: Although General Plan 2030 polices and actions reduce risks associated with levee failure, they do not eliminate risks to people and property. In addition, recently-adopted policies by FEMA would de-certify a number of levees in Butte County, which indicates that larger areas of Butte County are subject to levee inundation than realized under previous policies.	✓		SU	It is not within Butte County's power to require or complete maintenance and improvements to levees in the county owned and maintained by private individuals and other public agencies. Therefore, the impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
HYDRO-2: Although General Plan 2030 polices and actions reduce risks associated with dam failure, they do not eliminate risks to people and property.	✓		SU	It is not within Butte County's power to require or complete maintenance and improvements to dams in and around the county owned and maintained by other agencies. Therefore, the impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
HYDRO-3: General Plan 2030 would contribute to development in levee and dam inundation areas, resulting in a significant cumulative impact.		✓	SU	It is not within Butte County's power to require or complete maintenance and improvements to levees or dams in the county owned and maintained by private individuals and other public agencies. Therefore, the impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
LAND USE					
<u>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to land use.</u>					
LU-1 General Plan 2030 includes residential densities that are inconsistent with the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, which necessitates the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan override.	✓		SU	Much of the areas that are inconsistent with the ALUCP are already parcelized to a density that is similar to the General Plan 2030 designations. General Plan 2030 policies and actions would promote consistency with land use plans, policies, and regulations, but would not mitigate the significant impacts from inconsistencies with the ALUCP. Therefore, the impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i>.	SU

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
LU-2: General Plan 2030 and the Chico General Plan include residential densities that are inconsistent with the ALUCP, which necessitates the ALUCP override. This contributes to a significant cumulative impact.		✓	SU	Although General Plan 2030 policies and actions would promote consistency with land use plans, policies, and regulations, they would not mitigate the significant impacts from inconsistency with the ALUCP. Furthermore, decisions of the City of Chico regarding consistency with the ALUCP are outside the control of Butte County. Therefore, this cumulative impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
NOISE					
NOISE-1: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels because more people would be living, driving and flying in Butte County.	✓		SU	General Plan 2030 Health and Safety Element policies would reduce many noise exposure impacts to a less-than-significant level, but would not mitigate the significant impacts from traffic noise increases and aircraft noise increases on ambient noise levels in all cases. Since this traffic and aircraft operation is an unavoidable outcome	SU
NOISE-1 <i>continued</i>				of the type of residential and commercial growth foreseen in Butte County, there is no feasible mitigation measure to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	
NOISE-2: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would contribute to conditions that exceed County noise standards and that cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels, causing a significant cumulative noise impact.		✓	SU	General Plan 2030 would contribute to cumulative traffic noise conditions that exceed County noise standards. Since this traffic is an unavoidable outcome of the type of residential and commercial growth foreseen in Butte County and the surrounding counties, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
POPULATION AND HOUSING					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to population and housing.</i>					
PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to public services and recreation.</i>					

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION					
TRAF-1: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 32 between Muir Avenue and W. 1 st Street.	✓		S	TRAF-1: Widen State Route 32 to four lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-2: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 99 between the Sutter County Line and East Biggs Highway.	✓		S	TRAF-2: Widen and convert State Route 99 to a four-lane conventional highway through this section.	SU
TRAF-3: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 99 between State Route 149 and the Skyway.	✓		S	TRAF-3: Convert State Route 99 to a grade separated, limited access freeway facility through this section.	SU
TRAF-4: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 99 between East 20 th Street and Cohasset Road.	✓		S	TRAF-4: Widen State Route 99 to six lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-5: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 99 between Eaton Road and Keefer Road.	✓		S	TRAF-5: Widen State Route 99 to four lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-6: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS E operations on State Route 162 between Larkin Road and State Route 70.	✓		S	TRAF-6: Widen State Route 162 to four lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-7: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 162 between State Route 70 and Lower Wyandotte Road.	✓		S	TRAF-7: Widen State Route 162 to six lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-8: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS E operations on State Route 162 between Foothill Boulevard and Canyon Drive.	✓		S	TRAF-8: Widen State Route 162 to four lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-9: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on Cohasset Road between State Route 99 and East Avenue.	✓		S	TRAF-9: Construct a raised median on this roadway section to enhance capacity.	SU
TRAF-10: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS D operations on Midway between Hegan Lane and the planned Southgate Extension.	✓		S	TRAF-10: Widen Midway to four lanes through this section.	SU
TRAF-11: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on the Skyway between State Route 99 and Notre Dame Boulevard.	✓		S	TRAF-11: Construct a raised median on this roadway section to enhance capacity.	SU
TRAF-12: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS D/E operations on the Skyway between Neal Road and Bille Road.	✓		S	TRAF-12: Convert this section of the Skyway to a four-lane limited access expressway.	SU

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Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
TRAF-13: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would lead to unacceptable LOS D/E operations on the Skyway between Bille Road and Pentz Road.	✓		S	TRAF-13: Widen the section of the Skyway between Bille Road and Wagstaff Road to a four-lane, divided arterial, and widen the section of the Skyway from Wagstaff Road to Pentz Road to a four-lane, undivided arterial.	SU
TRAF-14: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would cause increased traffic that would exacerbate existing deficiencies along regional roadways, contributing to a cumulatively significant transportation impact.		✓	SU	Because mitigation for these deficiencies is not identified and would be outside the control of Butte County, the impact is considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
UTILITIES					
<i>General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions are found to avoid significant impacts related to utilities.</i>					
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS					
CC-1: Implementation of General Plan 2030 would result in GHG emissions that would contribute to cumulative GHG emissions and global climate change. The 2020 GHG forecast for the county indicates that emissions would be greater than 85 percent of current (2006) conditions, creating a significant contribution to GHG emissions and associated climate change impacts. Policies and actions would provide a comprehensive framework for reducing GHG emissions in the county, but they would not ensure that the County can meet the reduction goal.	✓	✓	SU	As part of the General Plan 2030 process, the County considered a wide range of policies and actions to reduce GHG emissions, and all feasible measures are included. However, they do not ensure that the County will meet its reduction goal, so the impact is considered <i>cumulatively significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Butte County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update 2030 – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: Butte County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update, Final Supplemental EIR Chapter 2 - Report Summary

This document has been reprinted from the Draft Supplemental EIR with necessary changes made in this Final Supplemental EIR shown in double underline and ~~striketrough~~.

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
AESTHETICS					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to aesthetics.</i>					
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES					
AG-4: The Modified Project would allow 4,460 acres of forest land to be redesignated to a non-forest designation.			SU	<p>A significant portion of the changes to the General Plan 2030 land use map that are included in the GPA, including the changes pertaining to this impact, were identified through the extensive meeting process that occurred in 2010 and 2011 for the GPA and the Zoning Ordinance Update (described in more detail in the Project Description, Chapter 3). Many of the public meetings for the Zoning Ordinance Update focused on the zoning map, providing the opportunity for a detailed review of zoning designations by members of the public, County Planning Commissioners, and County Supervisors.</p> <p>During this detailed review, participants identified changes and corrections to the original (Approved Project) General Plan land use designations. Further, as the new General Plan came into use over the 19 months since its adoption, County staff identified corrections to land use designations that were necessary to remain consistent with the approach used to create the preferred land use alternative identified for General Plan 2030 and designate lands under the Approved Project.</p>	SU

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
<i>AG-4 continued</i>				<p>Throughout the foothills and mountainous portions of Butte County, the Modified Project would change the designation of various parcels from Agriculture and Timber Mountain designations to designations that would allow residential development. All of these areas are located close to existing unincorporated communities, including Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Palermo, and Berry Creek, where introducing new timber harvesting and practices may present conflicts with rural residential land use patterns.</p> <p>In some cases, the amended residential designation would fill in an area between two existing residential areas (including areas with existing homes and areas that are currently vacant but designated for residential development), or that are accessed by primitive roads that also serve rural subdivisions. Again, because these areas are located adjacent to other residentially designated areas, they may no longer be viable for forestry practices and would present conflicts with residential land uses.</p> <p>In addition, in the foothill area south of Palermo, a significant acreage would change from Agriculture to Rural Residential on forested parcels. Many of these parcels are sized well below the 160-acre minimum parcel size considered by the General Plan as appropriate for timber production or the 20-acre minimum size considered appropriate for Agriculture, reducing the viability for forest or agriculture practices.</p>	

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
<i>AG-4 continued</i>				In summary, impacts to these forested areas have largely already been realized from existing or proposed residential development, surrounding residential land use patterns, and the presence of unincorporated communities. The Modified Project proposes to redesignate these lands in recognition of this fact. However, the proposed GPA and Zoning Ordinance cannot undo existing development patterns or residential land uses. For these reasons, the potential impacts of a Timber Mountain designation on these parcels would likely be greater than the potential impacts of the proposed residential designations. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	
AG-5: The Modified Project would allow for the conversion of forest lands to non-forest use because they include non-forest designations on such lands, as described in Impact AG-4.	✓		SU	As described in Impact AG-4, the Modified Project would change the designation of various parcels in the foothill and mountainous portions of Butte County to designations that allow residential development. These areas are located close to unincorporated communities and other areas that allow residential development, so they may no longer be viable for forestry practices, and forestry practices could present conflicts with residential uses. In addition, in the foothill area south of Palermo, a significant acreage would change from Agriculture to Rural Residential on forested parcels. Many of these parcels are sized well below the 160-acre minimum parcel size considered by the General Plan as appropriate for timber production, reducing the viability for forest practices.	SU

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
AG-5 <i>continued</i>				In summary, impacts to these forested areas have largely already been realized from existing or proposed residential development, surrounding residential land use patterns, and the presence of unincorporated communities. The Modified Project proposes to redesignate these lands in recognition of this fact. However, the proposed GPA and Zoning Ordinance cannot undo existing development patterns or residential land uses. For these reasons, the potential impacts of a Timber Mountain designation on these parcels would likely be greater than the potential impacts of the proposed residential designations. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	
AG-6: Although General Plan 2030 goals, policies, and actions related to forest land would reduce and partially offset Butte County’s contribution to forest land impacts, the overall cumulative impact would remain significant.		✓	SU	Because the amount of growth foreseen in the region and the decisions of surrounding counties regarding conversion of forest land are outside the control of Butte County, the impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	SU
AIR QUALITY					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to air quality.</i>					
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to biological resources.</i>					
CULTURAL RESOURCES					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to cultural resources.</i>					
GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND MINERAL RESOURCES					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to geology, soils, and mineral resources.</i>					
HAZARDS AND SAFETY					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to hazards and safety.</i>					

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to hydrology and water quality.</i>					
LAND USE					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to land use.</i>					
NOISE					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to noise.</i>					
POPULATION AND HOUSING					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to population and housing.</i>					
PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to public services and recreation.</i>					
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION					
TRAF-15: Implementation of the Modified Project would lead to unacceptable LOS F operations on State Route 99 between East Biggs Highway and the southern intersection of State Route 99 and State Route 162.	✓		S	TRAF-15: Incorporate passing lanes into the section of State Route 99 between East Biggs Highway and the southern intersection of State Route 99 and State Route 162 as described in the State Route 99 Transportation Concept Report published by Caltrans in August 2010. <u>The County will support the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and Caltrans for the procurement of necessary State and federal highway funds for this improvement.</u>	SU
TRAF-16: Implementation of the Modified Project would lead to unacceptable LOS D operations on Honey Run Road between Skyway and Centerville Road.	✓		S	TRAF-16: Upgrade the section of Honey Run Road between Skyway and Centerville Road to the County's arterial roadway standards.	SU
UTILITIES					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to utilities.</i>					

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

Significant Impact	Project Impact	Cumulative Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS					
<i>The Modified Project would not create any new significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions.</i>					

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

City of Biggs General Plan – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: City of Biggs DEIR for City of Biggs General Plan, October 2013

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Aesthetics and Visual Resources			
Impact 3.1.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could have a substantial effect on a scenic vista. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policy provisions and continued implementation of the City’s Municipal Code would ensure that no adverse impact to a scenic vista would occur.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.1.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not damage any scenic resources within a state scenic highway.	NI	None required.	NI
Impact 3.1.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in increased development that would alter the existing visual character of the Biggs Planning Area.	LS	None required.	LS

S – Significant CC- Cumulatively Considerable LS – Less Than Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable NI No Impact
 PS-Potentially Significant LCC -Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM- Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 3.1.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in an increase of daytime glare and/or nighttime lighting. This increase in daytime glare sources and nighttime lighting levels could have an adverse effect on adjacent areas and land uses.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.1.5: Implementation of the proposed General Plan in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development projects in Butte County would contribute to the alteration of the visual character of the region, impacts to scenic vistas, and increased glare/lighting.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Agricultural Resources			
Impact 3.2.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in the conversion of important farmlands, as designated by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use.	SU	None available.	SU

S – Significant CC – Cumulatively LS – Less Than Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable NI – No Impact
 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.2.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would involve land use changes for parcels currently under a Williamson Act contract. However, the only parcels currently under a Williamson Act contract have been in a state of nonrenewable since before the proposed General Plan.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.2.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland and/or farmland-related businesses to nonagricultural use. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan would ensure that agricultural operations are not adversely impacted.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.2.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, along with regional and statewide growth, would result in a contribution to the conversion of important farmland.</p>	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU

S – Significant CC – Cumulatively LS – Less Than Significant SU – Significant and Unavoidable NI – No Impact
 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Air Quality			
Impact 3.3.1: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan would obstruct implementation of the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2009 Air Quality Attainment Plan.	SU	None available.	SU
Impact 3.3.2: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in long-term, operational emissions that could violate or substantially contribute to a violation of federal and state standards for ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.	SU	None available.	SU
Impact 3.3.3: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in short-term construction emissions that could violate or substantially contribute to a violation of federal and state standards for ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.	SU	None available.	SU

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 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.3.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in population and employment that would increase traffic volumes on area roadways. This could result in elevated carbon monoxide emissions from motor vehicle congestion that could expose sensitive receptors to elevated carbon monoxide concentrations. However, traffic volumes would not be large enough to generate excessive carbon monoxide emission levels.</p>	LS	None required	LS
<p>Impact 3.3.5: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in projects that would include sources of toxic air contaminants which could affect surrounding land uses. Subsequent land use activities could also place sensitive land uses near existing sources of toxic air contaminants. These factors could result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations such as toxic air contaminants. However, the Butte County Air Quality Management District and state regulations would address exposure to toxic air contaminants.</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.3.6: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could include sources that could create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people or expose new residents to existing sources of odor. However, continued implementation of BCAQMD rules and regulations and proposed General Plan policy provisions would address this issue.</p>	LS	None required	LS
<p>Impact 3.3.7: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with cumulative development in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone and of coarse and fine particulate matter.</p>	CC/SU	None available	CC/SU

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Biological Resources			
<p>Impact 3.4.1: Land uses and development consistent with the proposed General Plan could result in adverse effects, either directly or indirectly, on special-status plant and animal species and sensitive and critical habitats in the Biggs Planning Area. However, implementation of General Plan policy provisions would address this impact.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.4.2: Land uses and development consistent with the proposed General Plan could interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species as well as use of native wildlife nursery sites. These land uses could also restrict the range of special-status species in the Biggs Planning Area.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.4.3: No habitat conservation plan (HCP), recovery plan, or natural community conservation plan has been adopted encompassing all or portions of Biggs. The General Plan would not conflict with Biggs Municipal Code Section 9.15.080 (Tree Preservation Regulations) that regulates the removal and preservation of trees on public rights-of-way within the city.</p>	NI	None required.	NI

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.4.4: The proposed General Plan, in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in direct and indirect mortality and loss of habitat for special-status species and sensitive and/or critical habitat.</p>	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU
Cultural and Paleontological Resources			
<p>Impact 3.5.1: Subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan could potentially cause a direct substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or structure. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan and continued implementation of the City’s Municipal Code would ensure that historic resources are not adversely impacted.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.5.2: Subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan could result in the potential disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric archaeological sites, historical archaeological sites, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. State policy in the form of the California Environmental Quality Act would ensure that archaeological resources are not adversely impacted by future development under the proposed General Plan.</p>	LS	None required	LS

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 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.5.3: Adoption of the proposed General Plan could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil formations) within the Planning Area. However, State policy in the form of the California Environmental Quality Act would ensure that paleontological resources are not adversely impacted by future development under the proposed General Plan.</p>	LS	None required	LS
<p>Impact 3.5.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, could result in cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the region. However, proposed General Plan policy provisions and State policy in the form of the California Environmental Quality Act would ensure that historic and prehistoric resources are not adversely impacted</p>	LCC	None required	LCC
<p>Impact 3.5.5: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, could result in cumulative impacts to paleontological resources in the region.</p>	LCC	None required	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Geology and Soils			
Impact 3.6.1: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the exposure of more people, structures, and infrastructure to seismic hazards. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan would ensure that people, structures, and infrastructure are not adversely impacted by seismic hazards.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.6.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in construction and grading activities that could expose topsoil and increase soil erosion. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan would ensure that there are no adverse impacts from erosion and loss of topsoil.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.6.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could allow for development on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, thus creating substantial risks to life and property. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan would ensure that potential development is not adversely impacted by unstable soils.	LS	None required.	LS

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 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.6.4: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan would not allow for development in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. There would be no adverse impacts from soils incapable of supporting septic tanks.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.6.5: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, may result in cumulative geologic and soil hazards. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan ensure that potential development is not adversely impacted by cumulative geologic and soil hazards.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
Hazards and Hazardous Materials			
<p>Impact 3.7.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would allow for land uses that would involve the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials in the Biggs Planning Area. Such activities would continue to be regulated in order to protect public health and will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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 PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.7.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or by locating development on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled by Government Code Section 65962.5. Such activities and circumstances would continue to be regulated in order to protect public health and will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.7.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not result in significant emission of hazardous emissions or significant handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.7.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.7.5: Implementation of the General Plan would not cumulatively contribute to regional hazards.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Hydrology and Water Quality			
<p>Impact 3.8.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in a violation of water quality standards; substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation, and/or environmental harm; polluted stormwater runoff; or otherwise degrade water quality. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policy provisions would ensure that water quality impacts are addressed.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.8.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the degradation of groundwater quality and may violate water quality standards and/or degrade water quality resulting from future land uses. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policy provisions would ensure that groundwater quality is protected.</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.8.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in a substantial alteration of an existing drainage pattern, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, that may substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site or could result in the creation or contribution of runoff water which would exceed the capacity of the existing or planned stormwater drainage system. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure that drainage is adequately addressed.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.8.4: The Biggs Planning Area is located within the dam failure inundation areas for the Oroville Dam. Failure of any of these dams or levees could result in inundation of portions of the project site.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.8.5: Land uses and growth under the proposed General Plan, in combination with current land uses in the surrounding region, could introduce substantial grading, site preparation, and an increase in urbanized development.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 3.8.6: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could increase impervious surfaces and alter drainage conditions and rates in the Planning Area, which could contribute to cumulative flood conditions downstream.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Land Use			
Impact 3.9.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not result in the division of an existing community nor would it result in substantial land use compatibility issues.	NI	None required.	NI
Impact 3.9.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could lead to inconsistency with other land use plans and ordinances, including the City’s land use plans and regulations that address physical effects to the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.9.3: The Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) has not yet been adopted. However, the proposed General Plan would support the plan effort.	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.9.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in addition to existing, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the City of Biggs and Butte County, would contribute to cumulative land use impacts associated with the division of an established community or conflicts with land use plans and regulations that provide environmental protection.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
Noise			
<p>Impact 3.10.1: The proposed General Plan could result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of City standards as well as a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the city. However, the proposed General Plan policy provisions would adequately address noise issues.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.10.2: Traffic conditions under the proposed General Plan could result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels that could adversely affect noise-sensitive land uses.</p>	S	None available	SU

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.10.3: Subsequent development under the proposed General Plan could result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration levels. However, substantial sources of groundborne vibration that would result in significant vibration impacts are not expected in the Planning Area.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.10.4: Construction and agricultural activities associated with subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan could result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels.</p>	S	None available.	SU
<p>Impact 3.10.5: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other development in nearby unincorporated areas of the county, would increase transportation noise along area roadways and construction noise throughout the Planning Area.</p>	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU
Population and Housing			
<p>Impact 3.11.1: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan could potentially induce population growth by the year 2035 beyond that currently anticipated.</p>	S	None available.	SU

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 3.11.2: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan would not result in the displacement of substantial numbers of housing or persons.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.11.3: Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development, could result in a cumulative increase in population and housing growth in Biggs as well as in the surrounding Butte County region, along with associated environmental impacts. This cumulative increase in population and housing is beyond that projected by BCAG.	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU
Public Services and Utilities			
Impact 3.12.1.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan could result in the need for additional fire protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times. The provision of these facilities could cause environmental impacts. However, future fire protection facilities would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency.	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.12.1.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in additional need for water supply and infrastructure to provide adequate fire flows for fire protection. The provision of these facilities could cause environmental impacts. However, future improvements would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.12.1.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in Butte County, would increase the demand for fire protection services and thus require additional staffing, equipment, and related facilities under cumulative conditions. The provision of these facilities could result in environmental impacts.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.12.2.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would result in increased demand for law enforcement services and could result in the need for new or physically altered law enforcement facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. However, future improvements would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.12.2.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the GBPD service area, would increase the demand for law enforcement services and thus require additional staffing, equipment, and facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.12.3.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase population in the BUSD service area, which would subsequently increase student enrollment in CUSD schools. New or expanded school facilities may be necessary to serve the increased demand. Subsequent development under the proposed General Plan would be subject to school facility fees to pay for additional school facility needs.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.12.3.2: Population growth associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the cumulative setting, would result in a cumulative increase in student enrollment and require additional schools and related facilities to accommodate the growth.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
<p>Impact 3.12.4.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would accommodate population growth, which could subsequently increase the use of existing parks and recreation facilities and/or require the construction or expansion of park and recreational facilities to meet increased demand.</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.12.4.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development, would increase the use of existing parks and would require additional park and recreation facilities within the cumulative setting, the provision of which could have an adverse physical effect on the environment.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
<p>Impact 3.12.5.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase demand for water supply and thus require increased groundwater production, which could result in significant effects on the physical environment. However, adequate groundwater supply sources exist, and proposed General Plan policy provisions would ensure adequate water service.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.12.5.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increase demand for water supply and thus require additional water supply infrastructure that could result in a physical impact to the environment.</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.12.5.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the cumulative setting, would increase the cumulative demand for water supplies and related infrastructure.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
<p>Impact 3.12.6.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would substantially increase wastewater flows and require additional infrastructure and may require additional treatment capacity to accommodate anticipated demands that would result in a physical effect on the environment. Additionally, the General Plan could result in wastewater discharge that would exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 3.12.6.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the cumulative setting, would contribute to the cumulative demand for wastewater service. However, implementation of proposed General Plan policy provisions would ensure adequate wastewater facilities are provided.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 3.12.7.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would generate increased amounts of solid waste that would need to be disposed of in landfills or recycled.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.12.7.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not be expected to result in conflicts with any federal, state, or local solid waste regulations.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.12.7.3: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, would result in increased demand for solid waste services.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Impact 3.12.8.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would increased demand for electrical services, including associated infrastructure that could result in a physical impact on the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 3.12.8.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development, would contribute to the cumulative demand for electrical services and associated infrastructure that could result in a physical impact on the environment.	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Transportation and Circulation			
Impact 3.13.1: Implementation of proposed General Plan would increase traffic volume that would degrade operating conditions along local roadways.	S	None available.	SU
Impact 3.13.2: Implementation of proposed General Plan would increase traffic volume that would degrade operating conditions along the state highway. The resulting LOS are within the levels adopted in applicable plans and policies. However, Implementation of improvements to the state highway system is uncertain since the City of Biggs has no control over Caltrans actions regarding SR 99.	S	None available	SU
Impact 3.13.3: Implementation of proposed General Plan may increase aviation traffic however; this growth is consistent with applicable plans and policies.	LS	None required.	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.13.4: Implementation of the proposed General Plan will not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). However, build-out of the proposed General Plan could result in increased travel on roadways that do not meet current design standards and present hazards in their current state.</p>	S	None available	SU
<p>Impact 3.13.5: Implementation of the proposed General Plan will result in inadequate emergency access unless improvements proposed in the document are implemented simultaneously with development.</p>	S	None available	SU
<p>Impact 3.13.6: Implementation of the proposed General Plan will increase the demand for public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; however, the proposed General Plan will not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding these modes or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities.</p>	LS	None required	LS

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**Table ES-1
Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 3.13.7: When considered with existing, proposed, planned, and approved development in the region, build-out of the proposed General Plan would rely upon future roadway capacity expansion projects for which full funding is not ensured.	CC/SU	None available	CC/SU
Impact 3.13.8: When considered with existing, proposed, planned, and approved development in the region, implementation of the proposed General Plan would contribute to cumulative traffic volumes on State Route 99 that result in significant impacts to level of service and operations.	CC/SU	None available	CC/SU
Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change			
Impact 3.14.1: Implementation of the proposed General Plan will result in greenhouse gas emissions that would further contribute to significant impacts on the environment.	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU

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Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 3.14.2: Implementation of the proposed General Plan would not be consistent with the goals of AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Sections 38500, 38501, 28510, 38530, etc.) as thresholds would be surpassed.</p>	<p align="center">CC/SU</p>	<p>MM 3.14.2: Add the following Policy to the Conservation and Recreation Element of the General Plan: “Policy CR-7.6: As funding permits the City will prepare a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan designed to reduce greenhouse gasses. The City may also participate in a regional climate action plan prepared by another jurisdiction. Until a climate action plan is adopted each project shall evaluate its impact on greenhouse gasses as part of the environmental process.”</p>	<p align="center">CC/SU</p>

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City of Chico General Plan Update – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: City of Chico General Plan Update Draft EIR (September 2010) – Chapter 2 Executive Summary

TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Land Use			
Impact 4.1.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in the division of an existing community nor would it result in substantial land use compatibility issues.	NI	None required.	NI
Impact 4.1.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could lead to inconsistency with other land use plans and ordinances, including the City's land use plans and regulations that address physical effects to the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.1.3 The Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) has not yet been adopted. However, the proposed General Plan Update would support the HCP effort.	LS	None required.	LS

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TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.1.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in addition to existing, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the City of Chico and Butte County, would contribute to cumulative land use impacts associated with the division of an established community or conflicts with land use plans and regulations that provide environmental protection.	LCC	None required.	LCC
<i>Agricultural Resources</i>			
Impact 4.2.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in the conversion of important farmlands (Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance) as designated by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use.	SU	None available.	SU
Impact 4.2.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not involve any land use changes for parcels currently under a Williamson Act Contract. However, proposed land uses would result in the re-designation of some land areas in the proposed Sphere of Influence, yet currently zoned for agriculture in the Butte	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
County General Plan. Although these lands are under Butte County jurisdiction, City re-designation to non-agricultural uses would result upon annexation into the City.			
Impact 4.2.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the City of Chico Agricultural Preservation Standards under the Municipal Code would ensure that agricultural operations are not adversely impacted.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.2.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, along with regional and statewide growth, would result in a contribution to the conversion of important farmland.	CC/SU	None available.	CC/SU
<i>Population, Housing, and Employment</i>			
Impact 4.3.1 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would accommodate anticipated residential and employment anticipated by the year 2030 as well as additional growth	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
capacity beyond the year 2030.			
Impact 4.3.2 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in the displacement of substantial numbers of housing or persons.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.3.3 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development, could result in a cumulative increase in population and housing growth in the City of Chico as well as in the surrounding Butte County region, along with associated environmental impacts. However, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would accommodate anticipated residential and employment growth in an efficient and compact manner.	LCC	None required.	LCC
<i>Human Health / Risk of Upset</i>			
Impact 4.4.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not expose people or structures to significant hazards involving wildland fires including in areas where wildlands are	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
adjacent to urbanized areas.			
Impact 4.4.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of a public or private airport in the Planning Area.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.4.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would allow for land uses that would involve the routine transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials in the Planning Area. Such activities would continue to be regulated in order to protect public health and will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.4.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or by locating development on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled by Government Code Section 65962.5. Such activities and circumstances would continue to be regulated in order to protect public health and will not create a significant	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
hazard to the public or the environment.			
Impact 4.4.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in significant emission of hazardous emissions or significant handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.4.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.4.7 Potential development under the proposed General Plan Update, along with increased urban development in Butte County, would not result in cumulative wildland fire hazard impacts.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Traffic and Circulation			
Impact 4.5.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in acceptable traffic operations on City roadway facilities.	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.5.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in traffic volumes on state facilities that would operate below Caltrans LOS thresholds under year 2030 conditions.	S	None available.	SU
Impact 4.5.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in demand for public transit services in the Planning Area. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions would not conflict with policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation or increase demand for transit facilities greater than planned capacity.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.5.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in the demand for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. However, implementation of proposed General Plan would not result in adverse affects to existing bikeways or pedestrian facilities that would discourage their use or result in safety issues.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.5.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in traffic volumes that	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
could result in the greater potential for roadway or traffic hazards.			
Impact 4.5.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in an increase in traffic volumes, which could increase the potential opportunities for safety conflicts as well as potential conflicts with emergency access. However, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not result in inadequate emergency access.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.5.7 When considered with existing, proposed, planned, and approved development in the region, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would contribute to cumulative traffic volumes in the region that result in significant impacts to level of service and operations.	CC	None required.	CC/SU
<i>Air Quality</i>			
Impact 4.6.1 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2006 Air Quality Attainment Plan. The proposed General Plan Update also	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
includes several policy provisions that would further assist in air quality attainment efforts.			
Impact 4.6.2 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in short-term construction emissions that could violate or substantially contribute to a violation of federal and state standards for ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.	PS	None available.	SU
Impact 4.6.3 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in long-term, operational emissions that could violate or substantially contribute to a violation of federal and state standards for ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.	S	None available.	SU
Impact 4.6.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in increased population and employment that would increase traffic volumes on area roadways. This could result in elevated carbon monoxide emissions from motor vehicle congestion that could expose sensitive receptors to elevated carbon monoxide concentrations. However, traffic volumes would not be large enough to generate excessive carbon monoxide	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
emission levels.			
Impact 4.6.5 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in projects that would include sources of toxic air contaminants which could affect surrounding land uses. Subsequent land use activities could also place sensitive land uses near existing sources of toxic air contaminants. These factors could result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations such as toxic air contaminants. However, Butte County Air Quality Management District and state regulations would address exposure to toxic air contaminants.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.6.6 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could include sources that could create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people or expose new residents to existing sources of odor. However, continued implementation of BCAQMD rules and regulations and proposed General Plan Update policy provisions would address this issue.	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.6.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with cumulative development in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.	CC	None available.	SU
Noise			
Impact 4.7.1 The proposed General Plan Update could result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of City standards as well as a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the City. However, the proposed Chico General Plan Update policy provisions would adequately address noise issues.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.7.2 Traffic conditions under the proposed General Plan Update could result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels that could adversely affect noise-sensitive land uses. In addition, future development of noise-sensitive land uses could be exposed to roadway and/or railroad noise levels in excess of the City's noise standards.	S	None available.	SU
Impact 4.7.3 Subsequent development associated with the proposed General Plan Update could result in new noise-	S	None available.	SU

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Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
sensitive land uses encroaching upon existing or proposed stationary noise sources or new stationary noise sources encroaching upon existing or proposed noise-sensitive land uses.			
Impact 4.7.4 Subsequent development under the proposed General Plan Update could result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration levels. However, substantial sources of groundborne vibration that would result in significant vibration impacts are not expected in the Planning Area.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.7.5 Construction activities associated with subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan Update could result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels. However, the proposed Chico General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of the City Municipal Code would adequately address construction noise issues.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.7.6 Sensitive land uses constructed near Chico Municipal Airport, Ranchoero Airport, and the Enloe Medical Center could be exposed to aircraft noise in excess of applicable noise standards for land use compatibility.	LS	None required.	LS

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PS – Potentially Significant LCC – Less than Cumulatively Considerable CS – Cumulative Significant SM – Significant but Mitigatable

**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.7.7 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other development in nearby unincorporated areas of the county, would increase transportation noise along area roadways.	CC	None available.	CC/SU
Geology and Soils			
Impact 4.8.1 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the exposure of more people, structures, and infrastructure to seismic hazards. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the City's Municipal Code would ensure that people, structures, and infrastructure are not adversely impacted by seismic hazards.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.8.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in construction and grading activities that could expose topsoil and increase soil erosion. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the City's Municipal Code would ensure that there are no adverse impacts from erosion and loss of topsoil.	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>Impact 4.8.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could allow for development on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, thus creating substantial risks to life and property. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the City's Municipal Code would ensure that potential development is not adversely impacted by unstable soils.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 4.8.4 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update may allow for development in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater and where soils are incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update would ensure no adverse impacts from soils incapable of supporting septic tanks.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 4.8.5 Subsequent land use activities associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region,</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>may result in cumulative geologic and soil hazards. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the City's Municipal Code would ensure that potential development is not adversely impacted by cumulative geologic and soil hazards.</p>			
<i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i>			
<p>Impact 4.9.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in a violation of water quality standards; substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion, siltation, and/or environmental harm; polluted stormwater runoff; or otherwise degrade water quality. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure that water quality impacts are addressed.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 4.9.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the degradation of groundwater quality and may violate water quality standards and/or degrade water quality</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
resulting from future land uses. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure that groundwater quality is protected.			
Impact 4.9.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in a substantial alteration of an existing drainage pattern, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, which may substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site or could result in the creation or contribution of runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage system. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure that drainage is adequately addressed.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.9.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update may result in the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map; and as a	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>result impede or redirect flood flows exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a failure of a levee or dam. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure that flooding is adequately addressed.</p>			
<p>Impact 4.9.5 Land uses and growth under the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with current land uses in the surrounding region, could introduce substantial grading, site preparation, and an increase in urbanized development.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
<p>Impact 4.9.6 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could increase impervious surfaces and alter drainage conditions and rates in the Planning Area, which could contribute to cumulative flood conditions downstream.</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC
Biological Resources			
<p>Impact 4.10.1 Land uses and development consistent with the proposed General Plan Update could result in adverse effects, either directly or indirectly on special-</p>	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
status plant and animal species and sensitive and critical habitats in the Planning Area. However, implementation of General Plan Update policy provision would address this impact.			
Impact 4.10.2 Land uses and development consistent with the proposed General Plan Update could interfere with the movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species as well as use of native wildlife nursery sites. These land uses could also restrict the range of special-status species in the Planning Area.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.10.3 No Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), recovery plan, or natural community conservation plan has been adopted encompassing all or portions of the City of Chico. The General Plan Update would not conflict with Chico Municipal Code Chapter 16.66 (Tree Preservation Regulations) that regulates the removal and preservation of trees on undeveloped parcels within the city.	NI	None required.	NI
Impact 4.10.4 The proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects, would result in direct and indirect mortality and loss	CC	None available	CC/SU

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
of habitat for special-status species, sensitive and/or critical habitat.			
<i>Cultural and Paleontological</i>			
Impact 4.11.1 Subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan Update could potentially cause a direct substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or structure. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update, existing Best Management Practices (BMPs), and continued implementation of the city's Municipal Code would ensure that historic resources are not adversely impacted.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.11.2 Subsequent activities under the proposed General Plan Update could result in the potential disturbance of cultural resources (i.e., prehistoric archaeological sites, historical archaeological sites, and isolated artifacts and features) and human remains. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update would ensure that archaeological resources are not adversely impacted.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.11.3 Adoption of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the potential disturbance of paleontological resources (i.e., fossils and fossil	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
formations) within the Planning Area. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update would ensure that paleontological resources are not adversely impacted.			
Impact 4.11.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, could result in cumulative impacts to cultural resources in the region. However, policy provisions in the proposed General Plan Update and continued implementation of the city's Municipal Code would ensure that historic and prehistoric resources are not adversely impacted.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Impact 4.11.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in addition to existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, could result in cumulative impacts to paleontological resources in the region.	LCC	None required.	LCC
<i>Public Services and Utilities</i>			
Impact 4.12.1.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in the need for additional fire protection and emergency medical services	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
<p>facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times. The provision of these facilities could cause environmental impacts. However, future fire protection/EMS facilities would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City goals would ensure emergency services and associated facilities are provided.</p>			
<p>Impact 4.12.1.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in additional need for water supply and infrastructure to provide adequate fire flows for fire protection. The provision of these facilities could cause environmental impacts. However, future improvements would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency.</p>	LS	None required.	LS
<p>Impact 4.12.1.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in Butte County, would increase the demand for fire protection</p>	LCC	None required.	LCC

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
and emergency medical services and thus require additional staffing, equipment, and related facilities under cumulative conditions. The provision of these facilities could result in environmental impacts.			
Impact 4.12.2.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in increased demand for law enforcement services and could result in the need for new or physically altered law enforcement facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. However, future improvements would be subject to project-level CEQA review at such time as an application for a project was submitted to the appropriate agency.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.2.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the CPD service area, would increase the demand for law enforcement services and thus require additional staffing, equipment, and facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.	LCC	None required.	LCC

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.12.3.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increase population in the CUSD service area, which would subsequently increase student enrollment in CUSD schools. New or expanded school facilities may be necessary to serve the increased demand. Subsequent development under the proposed General Plan Update would be subject to school facility fees to pay for additional school facility needs.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.3.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increase population in the city, which could also increase the number of students attending local post-secondary education facilities. The provision of new or expanded facilities would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.3.3 Population growth associated with implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the cumulative setting, would result in a cumulative increase in student enrollment and require additional schools and related facilities to accommodate the growth.	LCC	None required.	LCC

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
Impact 4.12.4.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increase demand for water supply and thus require increased groundwater production, which could result in significant effects on the physical environment. However, adequate groundwater supply sources exist, and proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and Cal Water's water conservation provisions would ensure adequate water service.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.4.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increase demand for water supply and thus require additional water supply infrastructure that could result in a physical impact to the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.4.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the cumulative setting, would increase the cumulative demand for water supplies and related infrastructure.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Impact 4.12.5.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in wastewater discharge that would exceed wastewater treatment	LS	None required.	LS

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**TABLE 2.0-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.			
Impact 4.12.5.2 Subsequent development under the proposed General Plan Update would increase wastewater flows and require additional infrastructure and treatment capacity to accommodate anticipated demands. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure adequate wastewater facilities are provided.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.5.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development within the cumulative setting, would contribute to the cumulative demand for wastewater service. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of City standards would ensure adequate wastewater facilities are provided.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Impact 4.12.6.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would generate increased amounts of solid waste that would need to be disposed of in	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
landfills or recycled.			
Impact 4.12.6.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not be expected to result in conflicts with any federal, state, or local solid waste regulations.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.6.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development in the region, would result in increased demand for solid waste services.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Impact 4.12.7.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would increased demand for electrical, natural gas, and telecommunications services, including associated infrastructure that could result in a physical impact on the environment.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.7.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development, would contribute to the cumulative demand for electrical, natural gas, and telecommunications services and associated infrastructure that could result in a physical impact	LCC	None required.	LCC

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
on the environment.			
Impact 4.12.8.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would accommodate population growth, which could subsequently increase the use of existing parks and recreation facilities and/or require the construction or expansion of park and recreational facilities to meet increased demand.	LS	None required.	LS
Impact 4.12.8.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, along with other existing, planned, proposed, approved, and reasonably foreseeable development, would increase the use of existing parks and would require additional park and recreation facilities within the cumulative setting, the provision of which could have an adverse physical effect on the environment.	LCC	None required.	LCC
Visual Resources			
Impact 4.13.1 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could have a substantial effect on a scenic vista. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policy provisions and continued implementation of the city's Municipal Code would ensure that no adverse impact to a scenic vista	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
would occur.			
Impact 4.13.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would not damage any scenic resources within a state scenic highway.	NI	None required.	NI
Impact 4.13.3 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would result in increased development which would alter the existing visual character of the Planning Area.	S	None available.	SU
Impact 4.13.4 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update could result in an increase of daytime glare and/or nighttime lighting. This increase in daytime glare sources and nighttime lighting levels could have an adverse effect on adjacent areas and land uses.	LS	None available	LS
Impact 4.13.5 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update, in combination with other reasonably foreseeable development projects within Butte County, would contribute to the alteration of the visual character of the region, impacts to scenic vistas, and increased glare/lighting.	CC	None available.	CC/SU
<i>Energy Use and Climate Change</i>			
Impact 4.14.1 Development under the proposed General Plan Update would increase	LS	None required.	LS

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SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Impact	Level of Significance Without Mitigation	Mitigation Measure	Resulting Level of Significance
the consumption of energy associated with electrical, natural gas, and vehicle fuel. However, implementation of proposed General Plan Update policies and state programs and requirements would ensure that energy usage is not inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary.			
Impact 4.14.2 Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would be consistent with the goals of AB 32 (Health and Safety Code Sections 38500, 38501, 28510, 38530, etc.). However, it could still result in greenhouse gas emissions that may further contribute to significant impacts on the environment.	CC	None available.	CC/SU
¹ Defined as a summary of impacts for the proposed General Plan Update and proposed mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize potential impacts.			

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City of Gridley General Plan 2030 – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: City of Gridley FEIR for City of Gridley 2030 General Plan, Chapter 2

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measure**

Table 2-3 Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures			
Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
4.1 Land Use, Population, and Housing			
4.1-1: Division of Established Communities. The 2030 General Plan includes a revised Land Use Diagram, identification of transportation improvements, and other changes that would primarily change currently undeveloped areas, but that also could affect existing developed parts of the City. However, the General Plan would not result in division of existing communities.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.1-2: Conflict with Other Plans. Goals, policies, and programs of the 2030 General Plan would not conflict with other adopted plans.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.1-3: Conflict with an Adopted Habitat Conservation Plan. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would not conflict with an adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.1-4: Inducement of Population Growth. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan could induce population growth in the Plan Area.	S	No feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact; the proposed project’s purpose is to provide a framework governing future growth in the City of Gridley and its Planning Area.	SU
4.2 Noise			
4.2-1: Transportation Noise Levels. Long-term project-generated traffic source noise levels would exceed the applicable standards or create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels at existing and proposed noise-sensitive	S	No feasible mitigation beyond the existing noise regulations and the policies and programs of the 2030 General Plan are available.	SU

NI = No Impact LTS= Less than Significant S = Significant PS = Potentially Significant SU = Significant and Unavoidable

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
receptors. Development of the extended planning area north of downtown would increase existing noise levels above existing and proposed standards for new and existing sensitive receptors.			
4.2-2: Expose Noise Sensitive Receptors to Construction Noise Levels Exceeding City of Gridley Standards. Short-term construction source noise levels could exceed the applicable City standards at nearby noise-sensitive receptors. In addition, if construction activities were to occur during more noise-sensitive hours, construction source noise levels could also result in annoyance and/or sleep disruption to occupants of existing and proposed noise-sensitive land uses and create a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.2-3: Expose Noise Sensitive Receptors to Stationary and Area-Source Noise Levels Exceeding City of Gridley Standards. Long-term 2030 General Plan buildout of stationary-and area- source noise levels would not exceed applicable standards assuming measures in the 2030 General Plan and the City Noise Ordinance are enforced.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.2-4: Vibration Levels. Short-term construction source vibration levels and vibration from train pass-bys could exceed Caltrans' recommended standard of 0.2 in/sec peak particle velocity (PPV) with respect to the prevention of structural damage for normal buildings and the FTA maximum acceptable vibration standard of 80 vibration decibels (VdB) with respect to human response for residential uses (i.e., annoyance) at vibration-sensitive land uses.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
4.3 Air Quality			
<p>4.3-1: Generation of Short-Term Construction-Related Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors. Emission of Criteria Air Pollutants and precursors during construction of the proposed general plan would exceed BCAQMD's significance thresholds of 25 lb/day for ROG and NO_x and 80 lb/day for PM₁₀. Policies contained in the proposed 2030 General Plan would support compliance with BCAQMD-recommended standard construction mitigation practices. This would substantially reduce construction-generated air pollutant emissions from buildout of the 2030 General Plan. However, due to the large amount of total development proposed over the buildout period, construction-generated emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors would still be substantial, could violate an ambient air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or predicted air quality violation, and/or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-1a: Require Implementation of Supplemental Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Exhaust Emissions.</p> <p>In addition to the measures recommended by BCAQMD for construction emissions and incorporated into the 2030 General Plan under Safety Policy 6.2, the City shall require each project applicant, as a condition of project approval, to implement the following measures to further reduce exhaust emissions from construction-related equipment, where required to reduce project level impacts to a less-than-significant level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ On-site equipment shall not be left idling when not in use. Limit idling time to a maximum of five minutes. ▶ Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications. ▶ Maximize, to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the ARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines. ▶ Electrify equipment, where feasible. ▶ Substitute gasoline-powered for diesel-powered equipment, where feasible. ▶ Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on site, where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane, or biodiesel. ▶ Use equipment that has Caterpillar pre-chamber diesel engines. ▶ Construction shall be curtailed during periods of high ambient pollutant concentrations; this may involve ceasing construction activity during the peak hour of vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways or on Spare the Air Days. 	SU

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Staging areas for heavy-duty construction equipment shall be located as far as practicable from sensitive receptors. Mitigation Measure 4.3-1b: Require Implementation of Supplemental Measures to Reduce Fugitive PM₁₀ Dust Emissions. The City shall require each project applicant, as a condition of project approval, to implement the following enhanced and additional control measures recommended by BCAQMD to further reduce fugitive PM₁₀ dust emissions, where required to reduce project level impacts to a less-than-significant level: ▶ Water shall be applied by means of truck(s), hoses and/or sprinklers as needed prior to any land clearing or earth movement to minimize dust emission. ▶ Haul vehicles transporting soil into or out of the property shall be covered. ▶ A water truck shall be on site at all times. Water shall be applied to disturbed areas a minimum of 2 times per day to prevent dust from leaving the property. ▶ On-site vehicles shall be limited to a speed that minimizes visible dust emissions on unpaved roads. 15 miles per hour is the recommended speed to minimize dust. ▶ Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 24 hours. ▶ The telephone number of the District shall also be visible to ensure compliance with District Rule 200 & 205 (<i>Nuisance and Fugitive Dust Emissions</i>). ▶ All visibly dry disturbed soil surface areas of operation shall be watered to minimize dust emissions. ▶ Existing roads and streets adjacent to the project will be 	

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>cleaned at least once per day unless conditions warrant a greater frequency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All visibly dry disturbed unpaved roads surface areas of operation shall be watered to minimize dust emissions. ▶ Unpaved roads may be graveled to reduce dust emissions. ▶ Construction vehicles on unpaved roads shall be limited to a speed which minimizes dust emissions. ▶ Haul roads shall be sprayed down at the end of the work shift to form a thin crust. This application of water shall be in addition to the minimum rate of application. ▶ Construction workers shall park in designated parking areas(s) to help reduce dust emissions. ▶ Soil pile surfaces shall be moistened if dust is being emitted from the pile(s). Adequately secured tarps, plastic or other material may be required to further reduce dust emissions. ▶ Hydroseeding shall be used or nontoxic soil stabilizers shall be applied to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for 10 days or more). ▶ Sandbags or other erosion control measures shall be installed to prevent runoff of silt to public roadways. ▶ Vegetation shall be replanted in disturbed areas as quickly as possible. ▶ Wheel washers shall be installed on all exiting trucks, or the tires or tracks of all trucks and equipment leaving the site shall be washed off to prevent track-out onto the public right of way. ▶ Excavation and grading activity shall be suspended when winds exceed 25 mph. ▶ The area subject to excavation, grading, and other construction activity at any one time shall be limited, as necessary. 	

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.3-2: Consistency with Air Quality Planning Efforts. Future development in Gridley would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and ozone precursors, both of which affect regional air quality. Anticipated population and development consistent with the 2030 General Plan could lead to operational (mobile-source and area-source) emissions that are not accounted for in the current applicable air quality plan and would exceed BCAQMD thresholds.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-2: Coordinate with Air District on Assumptions from Air Quality Plan Updates. The City shall continue to coordinate with BCAQMD to ensure that all new assumptions from new air quality plan updates are implemented as part of the General Plan.</p>	SU
<p>4.3-3: Generation of Long-Term Operational, Regional Emissions of Criteria Air Pollutants and Precursors. Long-term operational activities consistent with the 2030 General Plan would result in emissions of ROG, NO_x, and PM₁₀ that exceed BCAQMD's significance thresholds of 25, 25, and 80 lb/day, respectively. Thus, operational emissions of criteria air pollutants and precursors could violate or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and/or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-3: Require Implementation of BCAQMD Design Recommendations for Development Projects. The City shall require each project applicant, as a condition of project approval, to implement the following mitigation measure recommended by BCAQMD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Design of all development projects shall include feasible elements from BCAQMD's best available mitigation measures, where required to reduce project level impacts to a less-than-significant level (Appendix C to the BCAQMD CEQA Guide). 	SU
<p>4.3-4: Generation of Long-Term, Operational, Local Mobile-Source Emissions of CO. Local mobile-source emissions of CO would not be expected to substantially contribute to emissions concentrations that would exceed the 1-hour ambient air quality standard of 20 ppm or the 8-hour standard of 9 ppm.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
<p>4.3-5: Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Emissions of Toxic Air Contaminants. With implementation of the 2030 General Plan, proposed sensitive land uses and TAC sources would be adequately sited minimize exposure to substantial concentrations of TACs.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.3-6: Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Emissions of Odors. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan could result in the exposure of sensitive receptors to emissions of objectionable odors.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.3-6: Require Implementation of Measures to Reduce Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Odorous Emissions.</p> <p>The City shall require each project applicant to implement the following mitigation measures as a condition of project approval, where required to reduce project level impacts to a less-than-significant level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The deeds to all properties of proposed sensitive uses located within 2 miles of the major odor sources identified by BCAQMD shall include a disclosure clause (odor easement), prepared by an attorney with expertise in the field, and approved by the City, advising buyers and tenants of the potential adverse odor impacts from major sources of odors. ▶ Odor control devices shall be installed at the emitter to reduce the exposure of receptors to objectionable odorous emissions if an odor-emitting facility is to occupy space in a proposed commercial or industrial land use area. ▶ The odor-producing potential of land uses shall be considered when the exact type of facility that would occupy commercial areas is determined. 	SU
4.4 Transportation and Circulation			
<p>4.4-1: Degradation of City Roadway Levels of Service. With implementation of the 2030 General Plan, operation of numerous City roadways currently operating at LOS C or better would degrade to LOS D, LOS E, or LOS F. In addition, numerous City roadways currently operating at LOS D, LOS E, and LOS F would degrade further.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1a</p> <p>The City will plan and analyze vehicular transportation using LOS D as the minimum acceptable standard for City-controlled roadways and intersections.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1b: Reduce Traffic Volume on Magnolia Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The City of Gridley shall monitor future traffic and development patterns along Magnolia Street and will institute traffic controls that promote equal use of east-west streets through the downtown area in order to achieve 	SU

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>acceptable LOS along Magnolia Street. For example, to improve traffic operations, the City could implement traffic controls that direct traffic to alternative routes (e.g., Spruce Street, Hazel Street, Sycamore Street). The City could change the type or configuration of traffic controls (i.e. signals, stop signs) at major intersections, could change the timing of traffic signals to promote alternative routes, and/or could add access controls along Magnolia Street to increase the effective capacity of this roadway.</p> <p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1c: Reduce Traffic Volume on East Gridley Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The City shall monitor future traffic and land development patterns and extend planned collector streets and/or improve local streets, as warranted, to reduce the volume of traffic on East Gridley Road. <p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-1d: Reduce Traffic Volume on Washington Street</p> <p>The City of Gridley shall monitor future traffic and development patterns along Washington Street and implement traffic controls that direct traffic to parallel routes by managing the flow of traffic on parallel routes through modified traffic controls. The incremental volume that would need to be moved off of Washington Street to achieve LOS D is small (625 daily trips out of a total of 13,625 estimated daily trips).</p>	
<p>4.4-2: Degradation of Highway Levels of Service. With implementation of the 2030 General Plan, operation of two SR 99 segments would degrade to LOS D or LOS F. In addition, numerous roadways currently operating at LOS D, LOS E, and LOS F would degrade further.</p>	<p align="center">SU</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-2: Improve Operations on SR 99.</p> <p>There is no feasible mitigation that would improve LOS along SR 99 such that impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.</p>	<p align="center">SU</p>

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.4-3: Degradation of Regional Roadway Levels of Service. With implementation of the 2030 General Plan, increased traffic from land use development envisioned in the 2030 General Plan would degrade projected operation of regional roadways (i.e., located outside the City of Gridley Sphere of Influence) currently operating at LOS D. This impact would be significant and unavoidable.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-3: Coordinate Regional Transportation and Improvement Plans Mitigate regional roadway impacts by coordinating regional transportation and improvement plans with Butte County and cities in the County. The regional transportation plans would be designed to provide the mechanism for development to contribute to the fair-share cost of improving roadways. For Gridley, this coordinated planning effort could identify City contributions to affected roadways located outside the Gridley Sphere of Influence. The plan could also provide the basis for state, federal or other funding for improvement of roads and intersections required to deliver acceptable LOS with buildout of County and city general plans. However, there are no current plans for developing any such regional improvement plan and there is no guarantee that such a plan would ever be created. Therefore, this mitigation measure is considered infeasible.</p>	SU
<p>4.4-4: Degradation of Intersection Level of Service. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan Update would result in additional automobile traffic at key intersections in Gridley. Level of Service in excess of acceptable levels is anticipated to result from General Plan buildout.</p>	S	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.4-4: Improve SR 99 Intersections The traffic study suggests that specific improvements are needed to deliver Levels of Service that meet the City's goals. At the SR 99 / Ord Ranch Road intersection, signalization will be needed and auxiliary lanes will be needed at the intersection. Additional capacity in this vicinity would also be needed, such as a parallel formal or informal bypass of SR 99, use of frontage roads, or widening of SR 99 to provide four travel lanes. Without improvements, the SR 99 / Cherry Street intersection will operate at LOS F. Because SR 99 is already 4 lanes, signalizing the intersection will deliver LOS A. Without improvements, the SR 99 / Liberty Road intersection will operate at LOS F. A traffic signal will be needed, but to accommodate signalization. SR 99 will need to be widened to 4 lanes, and separate left turn lanes will be needed on the side street</p>	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		approaches. The resulting operation will be LOS B.	
<p>4.4-5: Increased Circulation Hazards at Railroad Crossings. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan Update would result in additional automobile and pedestrian traffic across existing at-grade UPRR crossings, which may increase the likelihood of accidents at these locations. Daily traffic volumes at UPRR crossings are projected to increase by 130% under the 2030 General Plan.</p>	SU	None feasible.	SU
<p>4.4-6: Increased Circulation Hazards at Commercial Developments. Increased traffic volumes associated with implementation of the 2030 General Plan Update would result in potential hazardous design features at specific sites identified for new commercial development.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and implementation strategies is required.	LTS
<p>4.4-7: Adverse Effects on Emergency Access. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan could create an increase in conditions that could adversely affect emergency access. However, the 2030 General Plan includes policies to develop transportation facilities that are safe and maintain these facilities in a manner that would provide for safe travel including travel by emergency vehicles. This impact would be less than significant.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies is required.	LTS
<p>4.5 Hydrology and Water Resources</p>			
<p>4.5-1: Violation of Water Quality Standards. The changes in Public, Residential, Commercial, and Industrial land use designations consistent with the 2030 General Plan would result in additional discharges of pollutants to receiving water bodies over the long-term from nonpoint sources. Such pollutants would result in adverse changes to the water quality in Gridley and receiving waters adjacent to the City.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs and compliance with existing regulations is required.	LTS

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.5-2: On-Site and Downstream Erosion and Sedimentation. Development and land use changes consistent with the 2030 General Plan would increase the amount of impervious surfaces, thereby increasing the total volume and peak discharge rate of stormwater runoff. This could alter local drainage patterns, increasing watershed flow rates above the natural background level (i.e., peak flow rates). Increased peak flow rates may exceed drainage system capacities, exacerbate erosion in overland flow and drainage swales and creeks, and result in downstream sedimentation in onsite drainage ditches, Morrison Slough, and potentially the Feather and Sacramento Rivers. Sedimentation, in turn, could increase the rate of deposition in natural receiving waters and reduce conveyance capacities, resulting in an increased risk of flooding. Erosion of upstream areas and related downstream sedimentation typically leads to adverse changes to water quality and hydrology.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
<p>4.5-3: Construction-Related Water Quality Impacts. Construction and grading activities during development consistent with the 2030 General Plan could result in soil erosion and stormwater discharges of suspended solids and increased turbidity. Such activities could mobilize other pollutants from project construction sites as contaminated runoff to on-site and ultimately off-site drainage channels. Many construction-related wastes have the potential to degrade existing water quality. Project construction activities that are implemented without mitigation could violate water quality standards or cause direct harm to aquatic organisms.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs and compliance with existing regulations is required.	LTS
<p>4.5-4: Interference with Groundwater Recharge. Development and land use changes consistent with the 2030 General Plan would result in additional impervious surfaces and a potential increase in groundwater use by municipal wells. Resulting reductions in groundwater recharge in the General</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
Plan area in the Butte groundwater basin could affect the yield of hydrologically connected wells.			
4.5-5: Potential for Failure of a Dam. The City of Gridley has been identified by the State OES as being in the dam inundation zone for the Oroville Dam. Failure of the dam has the potential to cause human injury or loss of life in the City as well as surrounding areas. In the unlikely event of dam failure, people and structures are exposed to inundation, and death, injury, or loss of property could result. Implementation of the proposed policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan, combined with other relevant state and local regulations, would minimize the potential for effects on the county from dam failure.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs and compliance with existing regulations is required.	LTS
4.5-6: Potential Increased Risk of Flooding from Increased Stormwater Runoff. Implementation of the General Plan would increase the amount of impervious surface in the plan area, thereby increasing surface runoff. This increase in surface runoff would result in an increase in both the total volume and the peak discharge rate of stormwater runoff, and therefore could result in greater potential for on- and off-site flooding.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs and compliance with existing regulations is required.	LTS
4.6 Biological Resources			
4.6-1: Loss of Special-Status Plants. Four special-status plant species, Brazilian watermeal, brown fox sedge, woolly rose-mallow and Sanford's arrowhead have the potential to occur within the ditches, irrigation canals and waterways in the Plan Area, and three special-status plant species, heartscale, lesser saltscale, and subtle orache have the potential to occur in alkaline soils within the Plan Area. Buildout of the General Plan could result in loss or degradation of suitable habitat for these species. Conversion of suitable habitat would result in loss of special-status plants, if they are present.	PS	Mitigation Measure 4.6-1: Require special-status plant surveys and implementation of avoidance measures or compensatory mitigation. The City shall implement the following measures to mitigate impacts of relevant future projects consistent with the 2030 General Plan: 1. Require all future projects that would remove or degrade potentially suitable habitat for special-status plant species, as a condition of approval, conduct special-status plant surveys according to established protocols. Surveys shall be	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>completed as part of the project application.</p> <p>2. If special-status plant populations are identified during protocol-level surveys, project design shall incorporate measures to avoid direct and indirect disturbances of special-status plant populations and their habitat.</p> <p>3. If impacts on special-status plant populations cannot be avoided through project design, the City shall require the project applicant to develop and implement a mitigation and monitoring plan to compensate for the loss of special-status plants. The mitigation and monitoring plan shall be developed in coordination with the City, DFG, and CNPS and shall include criteria for success and corrective measures to be implemented if success criteria are not met. Compensatory mitigation may include transplantation of existing plants, seed collection and inoculation in other suitable habitat areas, and preservation in perpetuity of other existing populations of these species.</p> <p>4. If the Butte County HCP/NCCP has been adopted prior to project commencement, participation in the plan may provide alternative mitigation options for special-status plant species covered by the plan.</p>	
<p>4.6-2: Disturbance of Raptor and/or Migratory Bird Nests. Trees and other vegetation in and adjacent to the Plan Area provide potential nest sites for raptors and migratory birds. Removal of trees or other vegetation during future development and buildout of the General Plan could destroy or disturb nests, resulting in loss of eggs or young.</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-2: Require raptor and Migratory bird nest surveys and avoidance measures The City shall implement the following measures to mitigate impacts of relevant future projects consistent with the 2030 General Plan on raptor and migratory bird nests: A qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for raptor and migratory bird nests before pruning or removal of trees, ground-disturbing activities within 500 feet of potential nest sites, or construction activities to locate any active nests on or immediately adjacent to proposed project sites. The surveys shall</p>	<p>LTS</p>

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>be designed and of sufficient intensity to document raptor nesting activity within 500 feet of planned work activities. Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted 2 to 7 days before vegetation removal or ground disturbance and conducted at 21-day intervals unless construction activities have been initiated in an area. For projects that begin construction between February 1 and August 31 (nesting season), pre-construction surveys shall be conducted during the nesting season. Locations of active nests shall be described and protective measures implemented. Protective measures shall include establishment of avoidance areas around each nest site. Avoidance areas shall be clearly delineated (i.e., by orange construction fencing) and shall be a minimum of 300 feet from the dripline (outermost edge of foliage) of the nest tree or nest or nest for raptors and 100 feet for migratory birds. Buffer distances and dates may be modified with approval from DFG. The active nest sites within an exclusion zone shall be monitored on a weekly basis throughout the nesting season to identify any signs of disturbance. These protection measures shall remain in effect until the young have left the nest and are foraging independently or the nest no longer results of the preconstruction surveys. The report shall be submitted to DFG by November 30 of each year.</p> <p>If the Butte County HCP/NCCP has been adopted prior to project commencement, participation in the HCP may provide alternative mitigation options for raptor and migratory bird species covered by the plan. Project proponents may chose participation in the plan as an alternative to other mitigation measures, if available.</p>	

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.6-3: Loss of Swainson’s Hawk Foraging Habitat and/or Disturbance of Nests. Based on known nest sites occurring in the vicinity of the Plan Area and suitable nesting and foraging habitat within the Plan Area, Swainson’s hawks have the potential to occur. Removal of mature trees and conversion of irrigated grain crops and pasture would result in nest and foraging habitat impacts respectively.</p>	<p align="center">PS</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-3: Protect Swainson’s hawk nests and mitigate foraging habitat loss.</p> <p>The City shall ensure implementation of the following measures to mitigate potential impacts of relevant future projects consistent with the 2030 General Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nesting Habitat: If construction occurs during the breeding season (March–September 15) within a 0.5-mile radius of suitable nesting habitat, the project applicant shall hire a qualified biologist to conduct DFG-recommended protocol-level surveys prior to construction consistent with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley (DFG 2000b), or an alternative approach identified through consultation with DFG. The area to be surveyed shall include suitable nesting habitat within a 0.5-mile radius area including and surrounding the project site. If active nests are found, mitigation measures consistent with the Staff Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson’s Hawks in the Central Valley of California (DFG 1994) shall be incorporated in the following manner: No intensive new disturbances (e.g., heavy equipment operation associated with construction, use of cranes or draglines, new rock crushing activities) or other project-related activities that may cause nest abandonment or forced fledging, shall be initiated within 0.25 mile (buffer zone) of an active nest between March 1 and September 15. Nest trees shall not be removed unless there is no feasible way of avoiding it. If a nest tree must be removed, a Management Authorization (including conditions to offset the loss of the nest tree) must be obtained from DFG with the tree removal period specified in the Management Authorization, generally between October 1 and February 1. If construction or other 	<p align="center">LTS</p>

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>project-related activities that may cause nest abandonment or forced fledging are necessary within the buffer zone, monitoring of the nest site (funded by the Project proponent) by a qualified biologist (to determine if the nest is abandoned) will be required. If the nest is abandoned and the nestlings are still alive, the project applicant shall fund the recovery and hacking (controlled release of captive reared young).</p> <p>Routine disturbances such as agricultural activities, commuter traffic, and routine maintenance activities within 0.25 mile of an active nest is not prohibited.</p> <p>2. Foraging Habitat: Project applicants shall be responsible for mitigating the loss of any Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. The extent of any necessary mitigation shall be determined by the City in consultation with DFG.</p> <p>If an active nest is identified within 10 miles of the project site by DFG during consultation, the county shall mitigate potential impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat in a manner that is consistent with the Staff Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks in the Central Valley (DFG 1999). Mitigation may include the provision of habitat management lands, habitat enhancement, or payment to an in-lieu fund, if available, as determined appropriate by DFG.</p> <p>Project sites which have less than 5 acres of foraging habitat and are surrounded by existing urban development, unless the project site is within ½ mile of an active nest tree, are not subject to foraging habitat mitigation.</p> <p>3. If the Butte County HCP/NCCP has been finalized and approved before commencement of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts on Swainson's hawk nesting and foraging habitat may be mitigated through participation in the</p>	

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		HCP/NCCP if the adopted plan provides such mitigation.	
<p>4.6-4: Loss of Giant Garter Snake. Giant garter snake is a state and federally listed threatened species. Giant garter snake has the potential to exist in the ditches, irrigation canals and waterways in the Plan Area. Buildout of the General Plan could result direct mortality of giant garter snakes, if present, and loss and degradation of potential giant garter snake habitat.</p>	PS	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-4: Protect giant garter snake. The City shall implement the following measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts of relevant future projects on giant garter snake consistent with the 2030 General Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City shall require all future projects that would result in construction activities or ground disturbance within 200 feet of rice fields, emergent marsh habitat, and irrigation ditches and canals, as a condition of approval, to conduct a biological resources inventory and determine if potential GGS habitat is present. 2. If GGS has a potential to be present per the biological resources inventory and there are no disturbances proposed within 200 feet of aquatic GGS habitat; no further action is necessary. 3. If suitable GGS habitat is present per the biological resources inventory and there are disturbances proposed within 200 feet of aquatic GGS habitat, but no direct impacts to aquatic habitat; the City shall require the project proponent to request and obtain technical assistance from USFWS regarding GGS minimization and avoidance measures. 4. If suitable GGS habitat is present per the biological resources inventory and there are disturbances proposed to aquatic GGS habitat, the City shall require the project proponent to determine if there is a federal nexus by which the USFWS would consult with another federal agency (USACE, FWHA, etc.). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If there is no federal nexus and GGS will be impacted through habitat modifications or direct impacts, the City shall require the project proponent to request technical assistance and develop, as determined by USFWS, a 	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>habitat conservation plan (HCP) to minimize project-related impacts to GGS and to provide information necessary for seeking an incidental take permit under Section 10(a) of the ESA. Alternatively, the project proponent may participate in the Butte County HCP/NCCP, if available.</p> <p>b. If there is a federal nexus and GGS habitat will be impacted through habitat modifications or direct impacts, the City shall require the project proponent to develop a Biological Assessment (BA) and submit the document to the appropriate federal agency to initiate Section 7 consultation. Avoidance, minimization and mitigation ratios will be described in the BA consistent with the Programmatic Consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permitted Projects with Relatively Small Effects on the Giant Garter Snake within Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Fresno, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter and Yolo Counties, California (USFWS 1997) and approved through the issuance of a Biological Opinion (BO).</p> <p>c. If the Butte County HCP/NCCP has been finalized and approved before commencement of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts on GGS may be mitigated through participation in the HCP/NCCP if the adopted plan provides such mitigation.</p>	
<p>4.6-5: Loss and Degradation of Habitat for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) is a federally listed threatened species. The beetle is dependent solely on blue elderberry and red elderberry shrubs to complete its lifecycle. Elderberry shrubs have the potential to exist adjacent to the ditches, irrigation canals and waterways in the Plan Area. Buildout of the General Plan could</p>	<p>PS</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-5: Protect valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat.</p> <p>The following mitigation measures shall be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to VELB:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City shall require all future projects that would result in vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities within 100 	<p>LTS</p>

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
result in loss or disturbance of VELB habitat, if present.		<p>feet of vegetated lands, as a condition of approval, conduct a biological resources inventory to determine if elderberry shrubs are present.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. If elderberry shrubs are present per the biological resources inventory and there are no disturbances proposed within 100 feet of an elderberry shrub; consultation with USFWS will not be required. However, avoidance and minimization measures such as the installation of orange barrier fencing shall be implemented to ensure that a 100-foot buffer is maintained between construction areas and elderberry shrubs. 3. If elderberry shrubs are present per the biological resources inventory and there are disturbances proposed within 100 feet of an elderberry shrub; determine if there is a federal nexus by which the USFWS would consult with another federal agency (USACE, FWHA, etc.): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If there is no federal nexus and construction would occur within 100 feet of elderberry shrubs, but not directly impact shrubs, the City shall require the project proponent to request and obtain technical assistance from USFWS regarding VELB minimization and avoidance measures. b. If there is no federal nexus and elderberry shrubs would be directly affected, the City shall require the project proponent to request technical assistance and develop, as determined by USFWS, a HCP to minimize project-related impacts to VELB and to provide information necessary for seeking an incidental take permit under Section 10(a) of the ESA. c. If there is a federal nexus and elderberry shrubs will be either directly or indirectly affected by development related activities, the City shall require the project proponent to develop a BA and submit the document to 	

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>the appropriate federal agency to initiate Section 7 consultation. Avoidance, minimization and mitigation ratios will be described in the BA and approved through the issuance of a BO consistent with the Conservation Guidelines for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (USFWS 1999).</p> <p>d. If the Butte County HCP/NCCP has been finalized and approved before commencement of the mitigation measures listed above, impacts on VELB may be mitigated through participation in the HCP/NCCP if the adopted plan provides such mitigation.</p>	
<p>4.6-6: Loss and Degradation of Sensitive Natural Communities. Construction of infrastructure, roadways or developments as part of the buildout of the General Plan could result in modifications to drainages and associated vegetation identified by DFG as Sensitive Natural Communities. The waters associated these communities may also qualify as jurisdictional waters of the United States or waters of the state. Buildout of the General Plan would result in alteration or disturbance of streambeds and/or removal of associated vegetation.</p>	PS	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-6: Require future project applicants to secure and implement a Streambed Alteration Agreement.</p> <p>The following mitigation measures shall be implemented to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on streambeds and associated Sensitive Natural Communities regulated under Section 1602:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City shall require all future projects on sites supporting aquatic resources or natural habitats (i.e., not cultivated or developed), as a condition of project approval, to conduct a biological resources inventory to identify and map all sensitive natural communities on the project site. Such inventory shall be completed as part of a complete application for a project. 2. If it is determined that riparian and channel habitats would be affected as part of a project’s development, the project applicant shall be required to obtain a Section 1602 streambed alteration agreement from DFG. As a condition of issuance of the streambed alteration agreement, the project applicant shall prepare a habitat mitigation and monitoring plan. The mitigation and monitoring plan shall include mitigation of impacts on riparian and channel habitats to the 	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>satisfaction of DFG, subject to limitations on its authority set forth in Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq. and the City.</p> <p>3. The City shall develop minimum standards that address management and restoration requirements based on subdivision size, affected communities, presence of other valuable habitats and special-status species.</p>	
<p>4.6-7: Loss and Degradation of Federally Protected Wetlands and Other Waters of the United States and Waters of the State. Construction of infrastructure, roadways or developments as part of General Plan buildout could result in adverse effects on jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands, or waters of the state.</p>	<p align="center">PS</p>	<p>Mitigation Measure 4.6-7: Require project applicants to delineate potential jurisdictional waters of the United States and waters of the state and secure appropriate permits from USACE or RWQCB.</p> <p>1. The City shall require all future projects that would result in ground-disturbing activities within 250 feet of aquatic features, as a condition of project approval, to conduct a delineation of waters of the United States according to methods established in the USACE wetlands delineation manual (Environmental Laboratories 1987) and Arid West Supplement (Environmental Laboratories 2006). The delineation shall map and quantify the acreage of all aquatic habitats on the project site and shall be submitted to USACE for verification. Such delineation shall be completed as part of an application for a project.</p> <p>2. The City shall determine, based on the verified wetland delineation and the project site plan, the acreage of impacts on waters of the United States and waters of the state that would result from project implementation. Jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands, also qualify as waters of the state, and waters determined to be non-jurisdictional by USACE may also qualify as waters of the state.</p> <p>3. All project applicants shall be required to provide proof to</p>	<p align="center">LTS</p>

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Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>the City Planning Department that they have obtained USACE Section 404 permit and RWQCB Section 401 certification or met waste discharge requirements before approval of grading and improvement plans and before any groundbreaking activity within 250 feet of a water of the United States or water of the state.</p> <p>4. The City shall require project applicants to replace, restore, or enhance on a “no net loss” basis (in accordance with USACE and the Central Valley RWQCB) the acreage of all wetlands and other waters of the United States and waters of the state that would be removed, lost, and/or degraded with implementation of project plans. Wetland habitat shall be restored, enhanced, and/or replaced at an acreage and location and by methods agreeable to USACE, the Central Valley RWQCB, and the City, as appropriate depending on agency jurisdiction, and as determined during the Section 401 and Section 404 permitting processes or the waste discharge requirements.</p>	
4.7 Geology, Soils, Mineral Resources, and Paleontological Resources			
<p>4.7-1: Potential for Exposure to Seismic Ground Shaking. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would not result in development of areas prone to strong seismic ground shaking. Implementation of policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan and existing regulations would implement best practices to reduce the potential for substantial adverse effects due to exposure to seismic ground shaking.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond compliance with existing regulations and 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
<p>4.7-2: Potential for Seismic Ground Failure. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in development of areas with moderate potential for seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Implementation of policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan and existing regulations would implement</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond compliance with existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
best practices to reduce the potential for substantial adverse effects due to exposure to seismic ground failure.			
4.7-3: Soil Erosion or Loss of Topsoil. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Implementation of policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan and existing regulations would result in use of best practices to prevent soil erosion and topsoil loss.	LTS	No mitigation beyond compliance with existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.7-4: Potential for Unstable Soils. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in construction of occupied structures in areas located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable, potentially resulting in on- or off-site lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Implementation of policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan and existing regulations would prevent damage from unstable soils.	LTS	No mitigation beyond existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.7-5: Construction in Areas with Expansive Soils. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in construction of occupied structures in areas with expansive soils.	LTS	No mitigation beyond compliance with existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.7-6: Construction in Areas with Soils with Poor Septic Suitability. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in construction of occupied structures in areas with soils poorly suited to septic systems. However, these structures would be constructed at densities that would generally require provision of sanitary sewers. Should septic systems be used, implementation of policies and programs in the 2030 General Plan and existing regulations would require use of best practices for septic systems.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the existing Butte County Code and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.7-7: Possible Damage to Unknown, Potentially Unique Paleontological Resources during Earthmoving Activities. Construction activities could disturb previously unknown paleontological resources within the Plan Area and along the alignments of the off-site elements.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
<p>4.8 Agricultural Resources</p>			
<p>4.8-1: Loss of Important Farmland. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in the conversion of Important Farmland and areas zoned for agricultural use to nonagricultural uses. Approximately 231 acres of Important Farmland in the City of Gridley (includes existing agricultural and vacant lands) and 1,155 acres of Important Farmland in the Planned Growth Area could be converted to urban uses.</p>	S	Development of urban uses in the Planned Growth Area is the purpose of the project. With the exception of the policies and programs of the 2030 General Plan, no additional feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact.	SU
<p>4.8-2: Conflict with Williamson Act Contracts. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in the development of urban land uses on lands under a Williamson Act contract. Approximately 117 acres of land in the Planned Growth Area are currently under a Williamson Act contract and would be converted to urban uses. To allow for urban development, these agricultural land uses would be removed from protection under the Williamson Act. This impact is considered significant.</p>	S	Development of urban uses in the Planned Growth Area is the purpose of the project. No feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact.	SU
<p>4.9 Public Services and Utilities</p>			
<p>4.9-1: Result in substantial adverse impacts related to the provision of water supply and water infrastructure. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan would increase the demand for a reliable supply of water for domestic uses, landscape irrigation, and fire flow. The 2030 General Plan includes goals, policies, and implementation strategies to ensure the adequacy of the City's water supply system. Before approving a project, the</p>	S	No mitigation is available beyond General Plan policy that would reduce impacts of the construction of water supply related infrastructure to a less-than-significant level.	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
City would be required to carefully assess whether adequate domestic water supplies and pumping capacity are available to serve the project.			
<p>4.9-2: Result in substantial adverse impacts related to wastewater treatment and disposal. The current permitted capacity of the City’s WWTP is 1.05 mgd ADWF. The city currently uses 0.88 mgd. Assuming an average of 100 gallons of wastewater per person per day, the remaining capacity of 0.17 mgd will serve a population increase of 1,700 people. The City is implementing a project to increase WWTP capacity to 1.7 mgd ADWF. This capacity increase would serve an additional population increase of 6,500. The WWTP’s remaining capacity and the capacity expansion would serve a total population increase of 8,200. Implementation of the proposed project could add up to approximately 10,970 residents to Gridley over the next 20 years. This level of population growth would exceed the City’s expanded wastewater treatment capacity by 0.28 mgd. The 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure the adequacy of the City’s wastewater treatment and disposal system. Before approving a project, the City would be required to carefully assess whether adequate wastewater treatment capacity was available to serve the project. The City would ensure that all applicable standards are met. However, construction of wastewater facilities to meet the needs of new growth under the General Plan could result in significant impacts.</p>	S	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is available that would reduce the impact of construction of facilities to a less-than-significant level.	SU
<p>4.9-3: Result in substantial adverse impacts related to the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Development of urban uses within Gridley’s infill areas and in the Planned Growth Area would increase the need for stormwater collection,</p>	S	The City has addressed local drainage needs, best environmental practices to reduce impacts related to stormwater management, and regional drainage needs in the 2030 General Plan. No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>detention/retention, and conveyance facilities. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan has the potential to cause significant impacts by increasing stormwater runoff associated with construction activities, thereby placing greater demands on Gridley’s stormwater conveyance system. Runoff from impermeable surfaces has the potential to increase localized flooding. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure that historic peak flows in local drainage ditches are maintained at pre-construction levels. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City would ensure compliance with all applicable standards.</p>		is available.	
<p>4.9-4: Result in a substantial adverse impact related to landfill capacity and solid waste disposal. Solid waste generated in Gridley is disposed of at the Neal Road Landfill, which is tentatively scheduled for closure on January 1, 2033. Landfill capacity and services in Gridley are considered adequate through 2033, three years after the time horizon of the 2030 General Plan. Growth that would occur under the proposed project would not result in an impact related to the disposal of solid waste, nor would it otherwise compromise the provision of solid waste and recycling services in Gridley. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to reduce the waste stream and ensure the continued adequacy of these services. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City would ensure compliance with all applicable standards. Although it appears that there will be sufficient capacity to meet the City’s needs during this General Plan time horizon, the City does not control landfill capacity and does not dictate urban growth in other places within Butte County that would have an important bearing on the effective lifetime of the landfill. The City is not</p>	S	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and implementation strategies is available. The City has identified all feasible measures to reduce the local waste stream, but does not control landfill capacity.	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
does not develop new landfills or expand existing landfills, does not permit landfill construction or expansion, and does not operate landfills. Due to the factors beyond the control of the City, it is possible that the 2030 General Plan would generate solid waste beyond the capacity of the existing landfill.			
4.9-5: Result in a substantial adverse impact to the provision of electrical service. The Gridley Municipal Utility (GMU) has adequate infrastructure to serve the city, and GMU’s three main circuits have adequate capacity to serve buildout of the Sphere of Influence. Infill projects will require establishing connections to the existing distribution system. New development will require installation of electrical infrastructure, and a new substation with increased capacity will likely be required to accommodate growth in the existing Sphere of Influence. For growth areas beyond the City Limits, the City will continue to pursue opportunities to purchase existing infrastructure from PG&E as an alternative to installing new wiring to these areas. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure the adequacy of electrical service. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City would ensure compliance with all applicable standards.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.9-6: Result in substantial adverse impacts to fire protection and EMS. The Gridley Fire Department currently responds within 6.2 minutes 90% of the time, which exceeds the recommended CAL FIRE standard. However, as reported in the City’s Final Municipal Service Review, CAL FIRE is challenged to meet minimum response times in areas west of the UPRR tracks in Gridley. Also, planned growth in the north part of the city would require infrastructure improvements to provide for greater fire flows. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure the adequacy	S	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is available.	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>of fire protection services and EMS. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City would ensure compliance with all applicable standards. However, new growth under the General Plan could result in the need to construct new facilities and/or expand existing facilities to accommodate demand for service. The City cannot rule out the possibility of significant impacts associated with these improvements at this time.</p>			
<p>4.9-7: Result in substantial adverse impacts to law enforcement services, staffing, and deployment. Implementation of the proposed project would allow for additional residents, businesses, and other urban development within the existing Plan Area and the Planned Growth Area. The 2009 population in Gridley is estimated to be 6,417 people. Growth in the Gridley-Biggs area could result in an incremental increase in serious crime rates. To maintain adequate service levels, hiring of additional law enforcement personnel will be necessary. The need for specialized law enforcement services will also continue to increase. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure the adequacy of law enforcement services. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City would ensure compliance with all applicable standards. It is possible that growth accommodated under the General Plan could result in the need to construct new facilities or expand existing facilities to serve new growth, and impacts from this construction could result in a significant impact.</p>	S	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is available.	SU
<p>4.9-8: Result in a substantial adverse impact to the public school system. The 2030 General Plan would increase the population of the City of Gridley, and produce a corresponding increase in the number of students in the Gridley Unified School District. However, policies and programs of the 2030</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	NI

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
General Plan would require payment of school fees as required under State law.			
<p>4.9-9: Result in substantial adverse impacts to parks and recreation services and facilities. Implementation of the proposed project would include development of residential uses within the existing Plan Area and the Planned Growth Area. An increase in population of approximately 10,970 people through 2030 could occur as a result. Additional parkland and recreational facilities will be needed to meet the needs of future residents of Gridley. The proposed 2030 General Plan includes objectives, goals, and policies to ensure that the City’s parkland standards are met. Before approving a project within its existing Plan Area or Planned Growth Area, the City will ensure compliance with all applicable standards. New growth accommodated under the General Plan will result in the need to construct additional facilities.</p>	S	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is available.	SU
4.10 Cultural Resources			
<p>4.10-1: Destruction of or Damage to Known Cultural Resources. No cultural resources have been identified within the General Plan Area; however this is most likely due to the paucity of investigations. The route of the California and Oregon Railroad, now owned by the UPRR, bisects the General Plan Area, and historic maps indicate the presence of roads and structures within the General Plan Area. None of these have been documented nor assessed for significance; therefore there is the potential for significant impacts on historic resources through project implementation.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
<p>4.10-2: Destruction of or Damage to As-Yet-Undiscovered Cultural Resources. Development within the General Plan Area would involve grading and excavation to a depth of</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
several meters, which could disturb or damage any as-yet-undiscovered archaeological resources or possibly human remains in subsurface contexts. It is still possible that archaeological or architectural resources have been covered by later deposits, that could be removed, exposing the cultural deposits during project-related construction activities.			
4.10-3: Unintentional Discovery of Human Remains. While not likely, there is the possibility that project-related ground disturbing activities may encounter human remains.	PS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.11 Visual Resources			
4.11-1: Adverse Impacts on Scenic Vistas and Visual Resources. Prominent views in the City of Gridley include primarily the Sutter Buttes but also expanses of agricultural lands. Views of the Sutter Buttes are considered a scenic vista in Gridley, and views of the Sutter Buttes could be partially or totally blocked by future urban land uses in Gridley. Further, new urban development in the Planned Growth Area would permanently alter the foreground and middle ground views from vehicles traveling along SR 99. The 2030 General Plan identifies areas that would be converted from existing agriculture to urban land uses. The 2030 General Plan envisions development of urban land uses that could partially or wholly block views of the Sutter Buttes.	S	No feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact; the proposed project's purpose is to provide a framework governing development of urban uses in the City of Gridley and its Planning Area.	SU

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**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
<p>4.11-2: Degradation of Visual Character. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan would substantially alter the visual character of the City of Gridley through conversion of agricultural and open space lands to developed urban uses. Assessment of visual quality is a subjective matter, and reasonable people can disagree as to whether such an alteration would also be considered a substantial degradation of the visual character. For this analysis, a conservative approach was taken to analyzing the potential for degradation of the visual character in Gridley.</p>	S	No feasible mitigation is available to reduce this impact; the proposed project’s purpose is to provide a framework governing development of urban uses in the City of Gridley and its Planning Area.	SU
<p>4.11-3: Increase in Nighttime Lighting and Daytime Glare. New urban development projects would require nighttime lighting and could construct facilities with reflective surfaces that could inadvertently cast light and glare toward motorists on SR 99 and roadways under day and nighttime conditions. However, the degree of darkness experienced in the existing City of Gridley boundary would not substantially diminish as a result of implementing the 2030 General Plan and would effectively retain existing views of stars and other features of the night sky. New urban development under the 2030 General Plan for the Planned Growth Area would increase the amount of nighttime light and daytime glare and would introduce a new source of nighttime lighting in an existing rural area.</p>	S	No mitigation measures beyond the policies and programs of the General Plan are feasible that would fully preserve existing nighttime views while at the same time allowing urban development.	SU

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
4.12 Energy			
4.12-1: Effects on Energy Consumption from Land Use Locations and Patterns. Buildout of the 2030 General Plan could affect energy usage if it were to propose land use patterns that increase dependency on single-occupant vehicles or other land use patterns or building that would cause wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy. However, the proposed land use patterns and policies support multi-modal transportation opportunities, which would reduce transportation-related energy usage and the need for expanded infrastructure. The General Plan proposes policies and strategies that would reduce energy needed for cooling buildings, pumping water, and other relevant end uses.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.12-2: Increased Energy Demand and Need for Additional Energy Infrastructure. Future population growth through buildout of the 2030 General Plan would increase the demand for energy and the need for additional energy resources to meet this demand. Policies and an implementation strategy of the General Plan, as well as existing regulations and project-level review would ensure infrastructure is developed prior to needs created by new development.	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.13 Hazards and Hazardous Materials			
4.13-1: Routine Transport, Use, or Disposal of Hazardous Materials. Future population growth through buildout of the 2030 General Plan would result in an increase in the routine transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous materials, which could result in exposure of such materials to the public through either routine use or accidental release. Implementation of proposed 2030 General Plan policies, in combination with existing federal and state regulations, would reduce the	LTS	No mitigation beyond existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
potential impacts related to the routine transportation of hazardous materials.			
4.13-2: Interference with an Adopted Emergency-Response Plan. Implementation of the proposed 2030 General Plan would create additional traffic and residences requiring evacuation in case of an emergency. Implementation of proposed policies would ensure conformance with countywide emergency-response programs and continued cooperation with emergency-response service providers.	LTS	No mitigation beyond existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.13-3: Exposure of Structures to Urban and Wildland Fires. Implementation of the 2030 General Plan could expose areas of the city to risks related to both urban and wildland fires. Compliance with California Building Code regulations, City of Gridley Fire Code requirements, and other state fire safety requirements would minimize wildland fire risks. In addition, proposed 2030 General Plan policies would ensure that people and structures would not be exposed to significant risk of loss of injury involving wildland fires.	LTS	No mitigation beyond existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS
4.13-4: Public Health Hazards from Project Development on a Known Hazardous Materials Site Compiled Pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Several sites within the City of Gridley and the Planned Growth Area are listed on the Cortese List as known hazardous materials sites. Implementation of the proposed project could expose construction workers to hazardous materials from these sites during construction activities, and hazardous materials on-site could create an environmental or health hazard if left in place.	LTS	No mitigation beyond existing regulations and the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

**Table 2-3
Summary of Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Impacts	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation
4.14 Climate Change			
<p>4.14-1: Increases in Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Project-generated GHG emissions would not be anticipated to conflict with the goals of AB 32 (i.e., an agency-adopted regulation for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions) due to the General Plan Update’s inclusion of policies and programs designed to reduce GHG emissions. However, the buildout of the proposed General Plan Update would result in GHG emissions that would increase considerably compared to existing levels. Thus, the project’s GHG emissions would generate GHG emissions that are cumulatively considerable.</p>	S	No further mitigation measures are available at the programmatic level.	SU
<p>4.14-2: Impacts of Climate Change on Gridley. Climate change is expected to result in a variety of effects on the Plan Area: reduced agricultural production, changes to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, reduced hydroelectric energy production, increased energy demand, decreased water supply, increased risk of flooding and landslide, increased frequency and intensity of wildfire, and the inundation of low-lying areas caused by rising sea levels. Substantial negative effects on the county’s residents, resources, structures, and the economy could result.</p>	LTS	No mitigation beyond the 2030 General Plan policies and programs is required.	LTS

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City of Oroville General Plan 2030 – Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Source: City of Oroville General Plan 2030, Draft EIR Chapter 2 - Report Summary

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significant Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
AESTHETICS			
Since there are no significant impacts related to aesthetics as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.			
AIR QUALITY			
AQ-1: Buildout of the Draft 2030 General Plan would involve construction activities that would temporarily generate ROG, NOx, CO, particulate matter (PM), and CO ₂ emissions that could result in short-term impacts on ambient air quality in the area.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
AQ-2: Buildout of the Draft 2030 General Plan would result in an increase of greenhouse gas emissions above current levels.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
BIO-1: Development associated with implementation of the 2030 General Plan would contribute to the ongoing loss of natural lands in the Oroville area, which currently provides habitat for common species, and possibly for a number of special-status species. The cumulative loss of habitat for common and possible special-status species would contribute to a general decline for the region, and would result in the loss or displacement of wildlife that would have to compete for suitable habitats with existing adjacent populations.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
Since this change would occur as an intrinsic part of land use changes, and since development outside Oroville would be beyond the City's ability to regulate or control, the cumulative change would create a <i>significant and unavoidable</i> impact.			

LTS = Less Than Significant S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

TABLE 2-1 **SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)**

Significant Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Since there are no significant impacts related to cultural resources as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.			
GEOLOGY, SOILS AND MINERAL RESOURCES			
Since there are no significant impacts related to geological and soil conditions as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.			
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
Since there are no significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.			
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
HYDRO-1: Despite General Plan policies to address risks associated with dam failure, due to the location of Oroville Dam and the dam inundation zone, impacts related to dam failure are considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
HYDRO-2: Due to the location of the Thermalito Forebays and Afterbay, as well as other water bodies within the Project Area, impacts related to a potential seiche are considered <i>significant and unavoidable</i> .	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
LAND USE			
LU-1: The Draft 2030 General Plan would result in the conversion of Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland to non-agricultural uses. Additionally, the conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses would result in loss of agricultural lands in Butte County.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU

S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

TABLE 2-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)

Significant Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
NOISE			
NOI-1: Due to traffic-noise associated with the General Plan, noise levels that currently exceed 60 L _{dn} on several roadway segments would increase further. On several other roadway segments, noise levels noise levels that are currently below 60 L _{dn} would exceed 60 L _{dn} . In both cases, implementation of the Draft 2030 General Plan is considered to contribute to a <i>significant</i> cumulative traffic noise impact.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
POPULATION AND HOUSING			
POP-1: The Draft 2030 General Plan would induce substantial population growth within the Project Area.	S	The Draft 2030 General Plan policies work to reduce this impact to the extent feasible, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU
PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION			
Since there are no significant impacts related to parks and recreational facilities as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.			
TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION			
CIR-1: Under the 25-year horizon buildout of the Draft 2030 General Plan, the segments of Olive Highway between Oroville Dam Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard and the segment of Highway 70 between Oroville Dam Boulevard and Ophir Road would operate at LOS F. In addition, the segment of Olive Highway between Foothill Boulevard and Oakvale Avenue would operate at LOS E. Although the Draft 2030 General Plan identifies roadway improvements needed to provide acceptable traffic operations on these segments, delivery of these roadway improvements is not certain due to funding constraints.	S	Funding for these improvements is outside of the City's control, and no additional mitigation is available.	SU

S = Significant SU = Significant Unavoidable Impact

TABLE 2-1 **SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONTINUED)**

Significant Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation Measures	Significance With Mitigation
<p>CIR-2: Increased traffic resulting from development in Oroville would exacerbate existing deficiencies along Highways 70, 99 and 65.</p>	S	<p>Funding for these improvements is outside of the City's control, and no additional mitigation is available.</p>	SU
<p>No funding is guaranteed to construct improvements that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level. Therefore, this impact is <i>significant and unavoidable</i>.</p>			

UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Since there are no significant impacts related to utilities and infrastructure as a result of the Draft 2030 General Plan, no mitigation measures are required.

Appendix D

Caltrans Best Management Practices

Appendix D

Caltrans Best Management Practices

As discussed in Section 2.3.2, covered activities include Caltrans projects. This appendix is meant to summarize Caltrans Best Management Practices (BMPs) used during construction. It first lists the proposed action's Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) that reference Caltrans construction BMPs. It then summarizes additional Caltrans' standard construction BMPs, by applicable resource, meant to avoid or minimize impacts. Caltrans' typically incorporates these BMPs, as applicable, to construction projects.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures for Transportation Facility Permanent Development Projects

As identified in Section 5.4.4.3 of the BRCP, the following avoidance and minimization measure will be implemented for all roadway construction and maintenance actions.

- AMM26: Implement Caltrans Construction Site BMPs to Maintain Water Quality. BMPs include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Preservation of existing vegetation
 - Streambank stabilization
 - Wind erosion control
 - Water conservation practices
 - Sanitary/septic waste management
- AMM27: Avoid and Minimize Noise and Other Disturbances from Bridge Construction Activities by implementing Caltrans noise reduction measures and BMPs. These measures include, but are not limited to:
 - Schedule in-water work to avoid potential impacts on covered fish species.
 - Eliminate or minimize the number of piles placed in the water body or that require in-water work.
 - Minimize the use of steel piles placed in the water body.
 - Use pile driving techniques that minimize impacts when practicable.
 - Minimize the size of piles as engineering constraints allow.
 - Utilize noise minimization tools for in-water work that will create harmful noise levels.

Air Quality and Climate Change

- Comply with Caltrans' Standard Specifications in Section 14 (2010).
 - Section 14-9.01 specifically requires compliance by the contractor with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.

- Section 14-9.02 is directed at controlling dust. If dust palliative materials other than water are to be used, material specifications are contained in Section 18.
- Apply water or dust palliative to the site and equipment as frequently as necessary to control fugitive dust emissions. Fugitive emissions generally must meet a “no visible dust” criterion either at the point of emission or at the right-of-way line, depending on local regulations.
- Spread soil binder on any unpaved roads used for construction purposes, and all project construction parking areas.
- Wash off trucks as they leave the right-of-way as necessary to control fugitive dust emissions.
- Properly tune and maintain construction equipment and vehicles. Use low-sulfur fuel in all construction equipment as provided in CA Code of Regulations Title 17, Section 93114.
- Develop a dust control plan documenting sprinkling, temporary paving, speed limits, and expedited revegetation of disturbed slopes as needed to minimize construction impacts to existing communities.
- Locate equipment and materials storage sites as far away from residential and park uses as practical. Keep construction areas clean and orderly.
- Near sensitive air receptors, establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) or their equivalent within which construction activities involving the extended idling of diesel equipment would be prohibited, to the extent feasible.
- Use track-out reduction measures such as gravel pads at project access points to minimize dust and mud deposits on roads affected by construction traffic.
- Cover all transported loads of soils and wet materials prior to transport, or provide adequate freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck) to minimize emission of dust (particulate matter) during transportation.
- Promptly and regularly remove dust and mud that are deposited on paved, public roads due to construction activity and traffic to decrease particulate matter.
- Route and schedule construction traffic to avoid peak travel times as much as possible, to reduce congestion and related air quality impacts caused by idling vehicles along local roads.
- Install mulch or plant vegetation as soon as practical after grading to reduce windblown particulate in the area. Be aware that certain methods of mulch placement, such as straw blowing, may themselves cause dust and visible emission issues, and may need to use controls such as dampened straw.

According to Caltrans Standard Specifications, the contractor must comply with all of the local Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) rules, ordinances, and regulations in regards to air quality restrictions.

Biological Resources

Comply with Caltrans' 2010 *Standard Specifications* in Section 14-6 related to biological resources. The core provisions include the following:

- Species Protection
 - *Contractor-Supplied Biologist*

- *Species Protection Area*
- *Natural Resources Protection Plans*
- *Biological Resource Information Program*
- Bird Protection
- Fish Protection
- Temporary Wetland Protection

Examples of specific conditions incorporating protection measures include, but are not limited to:

- Silt fencing, temporary fencing for wildlife, temporary fencing around environmentally sensitive areas
- Signs for environmentally sensitive areas
- Protecting migratory and nongame birds, their occupied nests, and their eggs:
 - The Department anticipates nesting or attempted nesting from February 15 to September 1.
 - If migratory or nongame bird nests are discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:
 - 1) Stop all work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery
 - 2) Notify the Engineer
 - 3) The Department investigates. Do not resume work within the specified radius of the discovery until authorized.
- Bird Exclusion devices or methods
- Defined construction periods and work windows
- Creek diversion systems
- Regrading of river beds
- Sound attenuation systems to protect endangered fish during pile driving operations
- Methods and materials allowed on construction ramps on river banks

Cultural Resources

- A project specific Paleontological Mitigation Plan will be prepared by a qualified principal paleontologist (MS or PhD in paleontology) once adequate project design information regarding subsurface disturbance location, depth, and lateral extent is available.
- The qualified principal paleontologist will be present at pre-construction meetings to consult with contractors who will be performing ground disturbing activities.
- Paleontological monitors, under the direction of the qualified principal paleontologist will be on site to inspect cuts for fossils at all times during original ground disturbance involving sensitive geologic formations.
- When fossils are discovered, the paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) will recover them. Construction work in these areas may be halted or diverted by the Resident Engineer to allow recovery of fossils in a timely manner.

- Fossils collected during the monitoring and salvage portion of the mitigation program will be prepared to the point of identification, sorted, and cataloged.
- Prepared fossils, along with copies of all pertinent field notes, photos, and maps, will be deposited in a scientific institution with paleontological collections.
- A Paleontological Mitigation Report will be completed that outlines the results of the mitigation program.
- Where feasible, selected road cuts or large finished slopes in areas with critically interesting paleontological features may be left exposed to serve as important educational and scientific features. This may be possible if no substantial adverse visual or safety impacts result.

Hydrology, Water Resources, and Water Quality

- Develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan/Water Pollution Control Plan (SWPPP/WPCP) in compliance with Caltrans' the Statewide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP).

Noise

- Incorporate guidance provided in Caltrans' 2013 Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual to address vibration issues associated with construction, operation and maintenance of Caltrans projects.
- Implement Noise Control specifications as defined in Caltrans' *Standard Specification*, Section 14-8.02:
 - Do not exceed 86 dBA L_{max} at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
 - Equip an internal combustion engine with the manufacturer-recommended muffler. Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler.

Traffic

- Incorporate the guidance provided in Caltrans' Division of Traffic Operations Office of System Management Operations 2009 Transportation Management Plan. These guideline identify the process, roles, and responsibilities for preparing and implementing Transportation Management Plans to control traffic during reconstruction, operation and maintenance of existing transportation facilities.
 - Some of the general elements included in the Transportation Management Plans are Public Awareness Campaign, Construction Zone Enhancement Enforcement Program, Portable Changeable Message Signs, Caltrans Highway Information Network, and Radar Speed Message Signs.
- Comply with the Federal Highway Administration Final Rule, 23 Code of Federal Regulations 630, Subpart J, referred to as the "Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule" requiring the Department to adopt policies and a program that implement Transportation Management Plans on all federally funded highway projects.
- Comply with DD-60-R1 Transportation Management Plan policy which establishes the departmental policy related to various roles and responsibilities in Transportation Management Plan development and implementation.

Appendix E

Additional Air Quality Regulations

Appendix E

Additional Air Quality Regulations

This appendix provides a summary of additional air quality regulations not described in Chapter 5, *Air Quality and Climate Change*.

Assembly Bill 939, Titles 14, 17, and 27, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989

GHG emissions from landfills are regulated under Assembly Bill (AB) 939, Titles 14 and 27. AB 939 mandated local jurisdictions to meet waste diversion goals of 25% by 1995 and 50% by 2000. In addition, AB 939 established an integrated statewide system for compliance and program implementation. Titles 14 and 27 contain detailed rules on daily operations, handling of specific waste types, monitoring, closure, and record-keeping.

At its June 25, 2009, public hearing, ARB approved for adoption CCR, Title 17, article 4, sub-article 6, sections 95460 to 95476, Methane Emissions from Municipal Solid Waste Landfills. This regulation is a discrete early action GHG-reduction measure, as described in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32; Stats. 2006, chapter 488). It will reduce methane emissions from landfills primarily by requiring owners and operators of certain uncontrolled landfills to install gas collection and control systems, and by requiring existing and newly installed gas collection and control systems to operate optimally.

Assembly Bill 1493—Pavley Rule (2002)

Known as Pavley I, AB 1493 standards are the nation's first GHG standards for automobiles. AB 1493 requires ARB to adopt vehicle standards that will lower GHG emissions from new light duty autos to the maximum extent feasible beginning in 2009. Additional strengthening of the Pavley standards (Pavley II) has been proposed for vehicle model years 2017–2020. Together, the two standards are expected to increase average fuel economy to roughly 43 mpg by 2020 and reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector in California by approximately 14%. In June 2009, EPA granted California's waiver request, enabling the state to enforce its GHG emissions standards for new motor vehicles beginning with the current model year.

EPA and ARB are currently working together to on a joint rulemaking to establish GHG emissions standards for 2017 to 2025 model-year passenger vehicles. The Interim Joint Technical Assessment Report for the standards evaluated four potential future standards ranging from 47 and 62 miles per gallon in 2025. The official proposal was released by both EPA and ARB on December 7, 2011, and was unanimously approved by ARB on January 26, 2012 (California Air Resources Board 2012b).

Executive Order S-03-05 (2005)

Signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on June 1, 2005, EO S-3-05 asserts that California is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. To combat this concern, EO S-03-05 established the following GHG emission reduction targets for California's state agencies.

- By 2010, reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels.
- By 2020, reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels.

- By 2050, reduce GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels.

EOs are binding only on state agencies. Accordingly, EO S-03-05 will guide state agencies' efforts to control and regulate GHG emissions but will have no direct binding effect on local efforts. The Secretary of Cal/EPA is required to report to the Governor and state legislature biannually on the impacts of climate change on California, mitigation and adaptation plans, and progress made toward reducing GHG emissions to meet the targets established in this EO.

Assembly Bill 32—The California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006)

AB 32 codified the state's GHG emissions target by requiring that the state's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Since being adopted, ARB, California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and Building Standards Commission have been developing regulations that will help meet the goals of AB 32 and EO S-03-05. The Scoping Plan for AB32, developed by ARB as part of the requirements of AB 32, identifies specific measures and actions to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and requires ARB and other state agencies to develop and enforce regulations and other initiatives for reducing GHGs. Specifically, the Scoping Plan articulates a key role for local governments, recommending they establish GHG reduction goals for both their municipal operations and the community consistent with those of the state (i.e., approximately 15% below current levels). Specifically, the Scoping Plan articulates a key role for local governments, recommending they establish GHG reduction goals for both their municipal operations and the community consistent with those of the state (i.e., approximately 15% below current levels).

Executive Order S-01-07, Low Carbon Fuel Standard (2007)

EO S-01-07 mandates: (1) that a statewide goal be established to reduce the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by at least 10% by 2020, and (2) that a low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) for transportation fuels be established in California. The EO initiates a research and regulatory process at ARB. Based on an implementation plan developed by CEC, ARB will be responsible for implementing the LCFS. On December 29, 2011, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the LCFS, ruling that the LCFS violates the interstate commerce clause (Georgetown Climate Center 2012). On April 13, 2012, a stay on the injunction was granted while the court considers ARB's appeal, allowing ARB to continue to implement and resume enforcement of LCFS (California Air Resources Board 2012c).

California Air Resources Board Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule (Title 17) (2007)

In December of 2007, ARB approved a rule requiring mandatory reporting of GHG emissions from certain sources, pursuant to AB 32. Facilities subject to the mandatory reporting rule must report their emissions either annually for large facilities or triennially for smaller facilities starting from 2010. In general the rule applies to facilities emitting more than 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) in any given calendar year and electricity generating facilities with a nameplate generating capacity greater than 1 megawatt (MW) and/or emitting more than 2,500 metric tons CO₂e per year. Additional requirements apply to cement plants and entities that buy and sell electricity in the state.

California Air Resources Board Local Government Operations Protocol (2008)

On September 25, 2008, the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP) was adopted by ARB. The protocol, prepared by ARB, California Climate Action Registry, ICLEI, and the Climate Registry, provides methods and techniques for the preparation of GHG emission inventories for local government municipal operations. The adopted protocol does not recommended any particular measures for GHG reductions by local governments (California Air Resources Board 2008).

Senate Bill 375—Sustainable Communities Strategy, Chapter 728 (2008)

SB 375 provides for a new planning process that coordinates land use planning, regional transportation plans, and funding priorities in order to help California meet the GHG reduction goals established in AB 32. SB 375 requires regional transportation plans (RTPs), developed by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to incorporate a “sustainable communities strategy” (SCS) in their Regional Transportation Plans. The goal of the SCS is to reduce regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) through land use planning and consequent transportation patterns. On September 23, 2010, ARB adopted regional GHG reduction targets that will focus each SCS. The target for Butte County specifies a 1% reduction in per capita emissions by 2020 and a 1% reduction by 2035. BCAG developed and adopted its SCS, pursuant to the regional GHG target, in December 2012 (Butte County Association of Governments n.d.). SB 375 also includes provisions for streamlined CEQA review for some infill projects such as transit-oriented development. However, those provisions will not become effective until an SCS is adopted.

Senate Bills 1078/107 and Executive Order S-14-08—Renewable Portfolio Standard (2008/2011)

Senate Bills (SB) 1078 and 107, California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), obligates investor-owned utilities (IOUs), energy service providers (ESPs), and Community Choice Aggregations (CCAs) to procure an additional 1% of retail sales per year from eligible renewable sources until 20% is reached, no later than 2010. CPUC and CEC are jointly responsible for implementing the program. EO S-14-08 set forth a longer range target of procuring 33% of retail sales by 2020. SB 2 (2011) requires a Renewable Portfolio RPS of 33% by 2020.

California Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Non-Residential Buildings (Title 24)(2008)

CEC periodically updates the energy efficiency requirements for residential and non-residential buildings. The currently applicable standards were adopted in 2008. The next standards were adopted in late May, 2012 and come into force in 2014.

California Green Building Standards Code—Title 24, Part 11 (2011)

On July 17, 2008, the California Building Standards Commission adopted the nation’s first green building standards. The California Green Building Standards Code (proposed Part 11, Title 24) was adopted as part of the California Building Standards Code (24 CCR). Part 11 establishes voluntary standards that became mandatory in the 2010 edition of the code, including planning and design for sustainable site development, water conservation, material conservation, and internal air contaminants. The standards took effect in January 1, 2011. The standards did not mandate improvements in energy efficiency above the Title 24 2008 standards.

Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Program (2010/2011)

The development of a cap-and-trade program was included as a key reduction measure of ARB's AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan (California Air Resources Board 2012d). The cap-and-trade emissions trading program developed by ARB took effect on January 1, 2012, with enforceable compliance obligations beginning January 1, 2013. The cap-and-trade program aims to regulate the GHG emissions from the largest producers in the state by setting a statewide firm limit, or cap, on the allowable annual GHGs. The cap contains three compliance phases. In compliance period one, large emitters from the electricity and industrial sector come under the cap. In the second period, which commences in 2015, fuels will be subject to the cap. Compliance phase three includes all three sectors (electricity, industry, fuels) and runs until 2020.

Each sector receives GHG trading allowances in a different way. Electricity receives allowances from ARB through a blend of auctions and free allocations based on emissions. Industry, by contrast, receives allowances based on their efficiency relative to other capped companies in their sector (benchmarks). The cap, or amount capped entities are able to emit, will decrease over time (approximately 2–3% each year. Capped entities with more allowances than emissions may bank some allowances to cover future emissions or sell those allowances back to the market established under the program. Capped entities with emissions that exceed their allowances must purchase more allowances in order to comply with the program.

ARB administered the first auction on November 14, 2012, with many of the qualified bidders representing corporations or organizations that produce large amounts of GHG emissions including energy companies, agriculture and food industries, steel mills, cement companies, and universities (California Air Resources Board 2012d). It is anticipated that the program will cover around 350 to 400 businesses or "capped entities," including those headquartered out of state if they operate facilities in California.

On November 13, 2012, the California Chamber of Commerce filed a lawsuit that claims the cap-and-trade "auction is not a 'fee schedule' authorized by AB 32," and that the auction of allowances is the equivalent of a tax, which would require an act of the California legislature. By most accounts, the claims are not expected to prevail because ARB under the Scoping Plan took great care to contrast cap-and-trade from a fee.

Appendix F

Special-Status Species Occurrences

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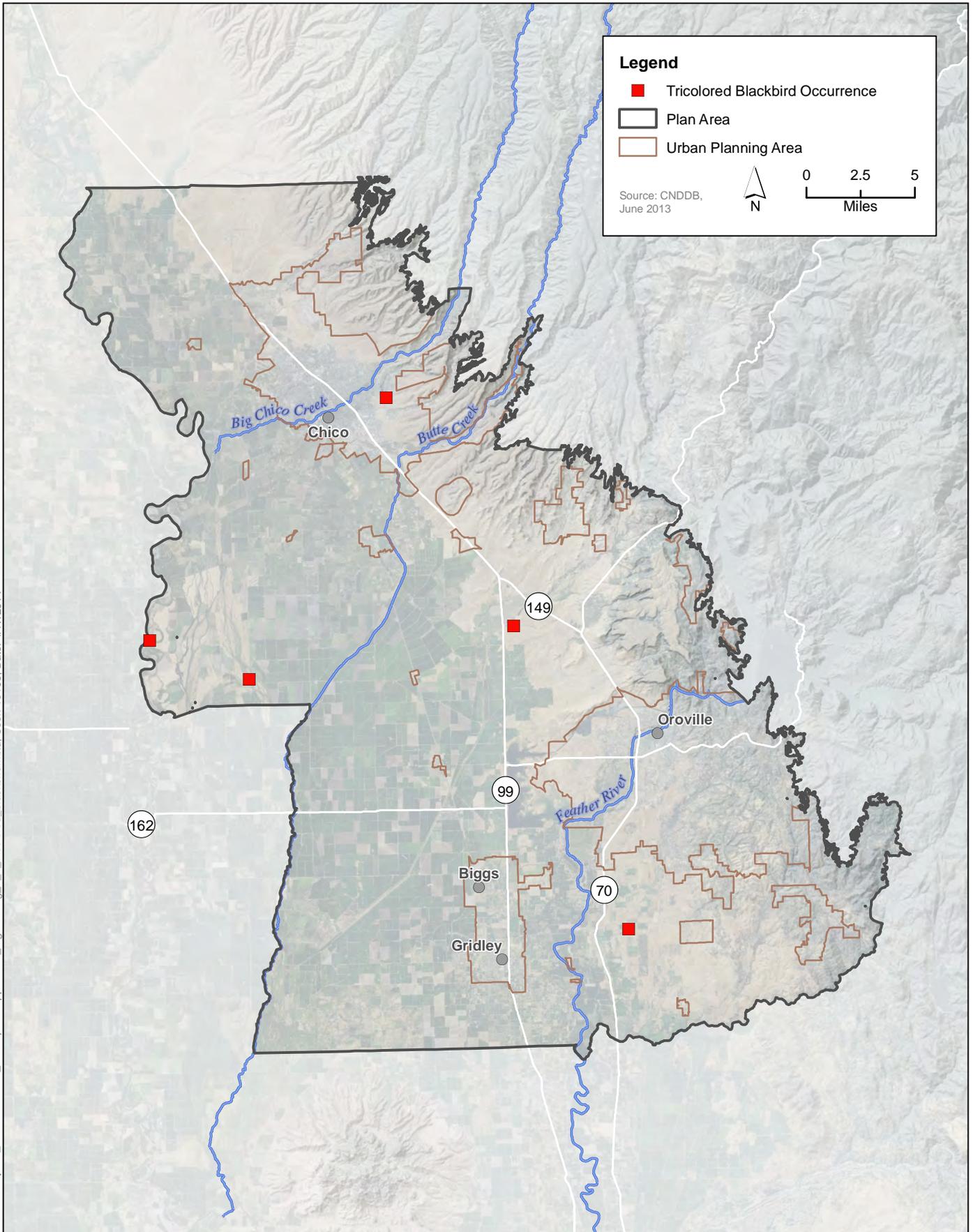


Figure F-1
Tricolored Blackbird Occurrences in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_2_Yellow_breasted_chat.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

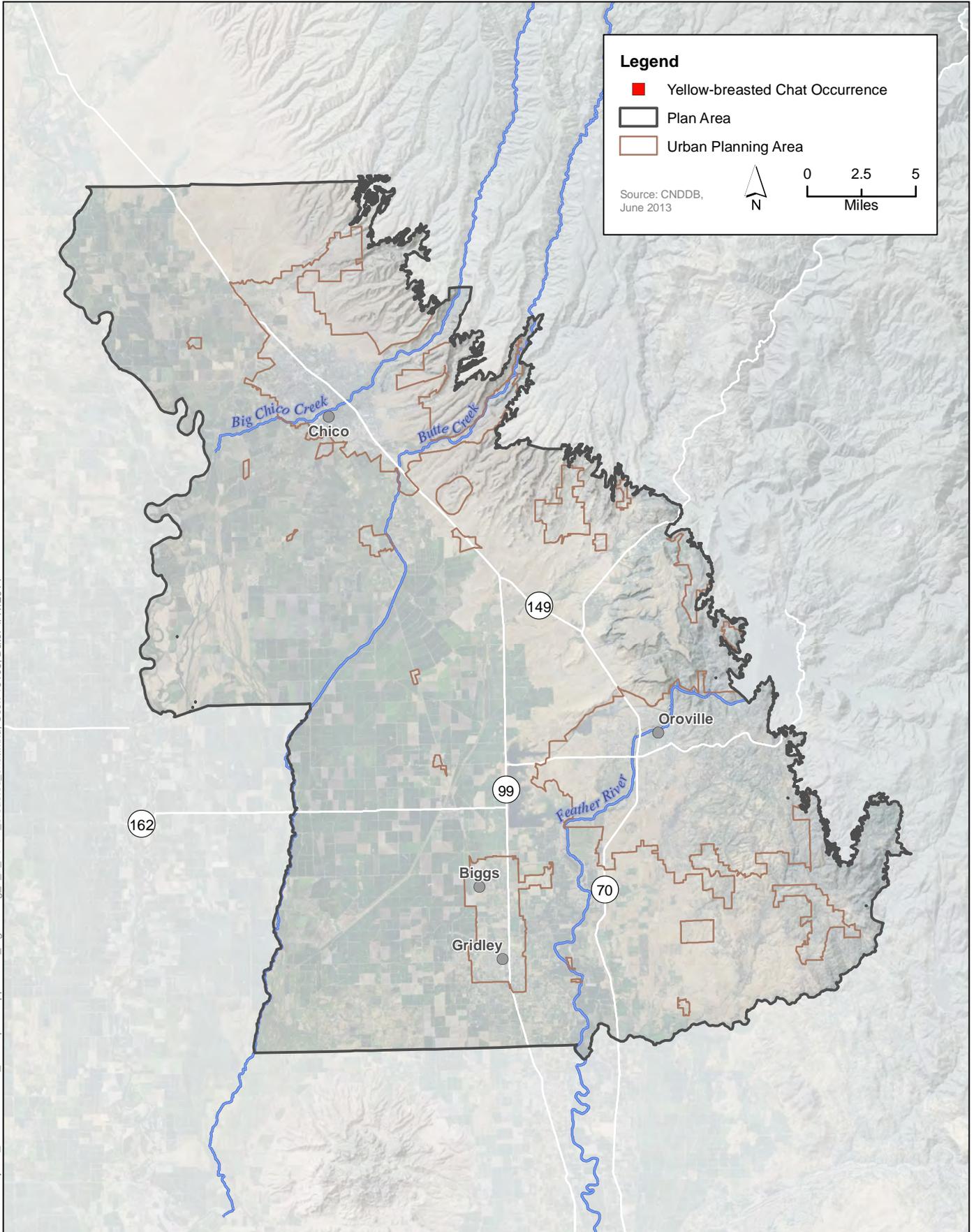


Figure F-2
Yellow-breasted Chat Occurrences in the Plan Area

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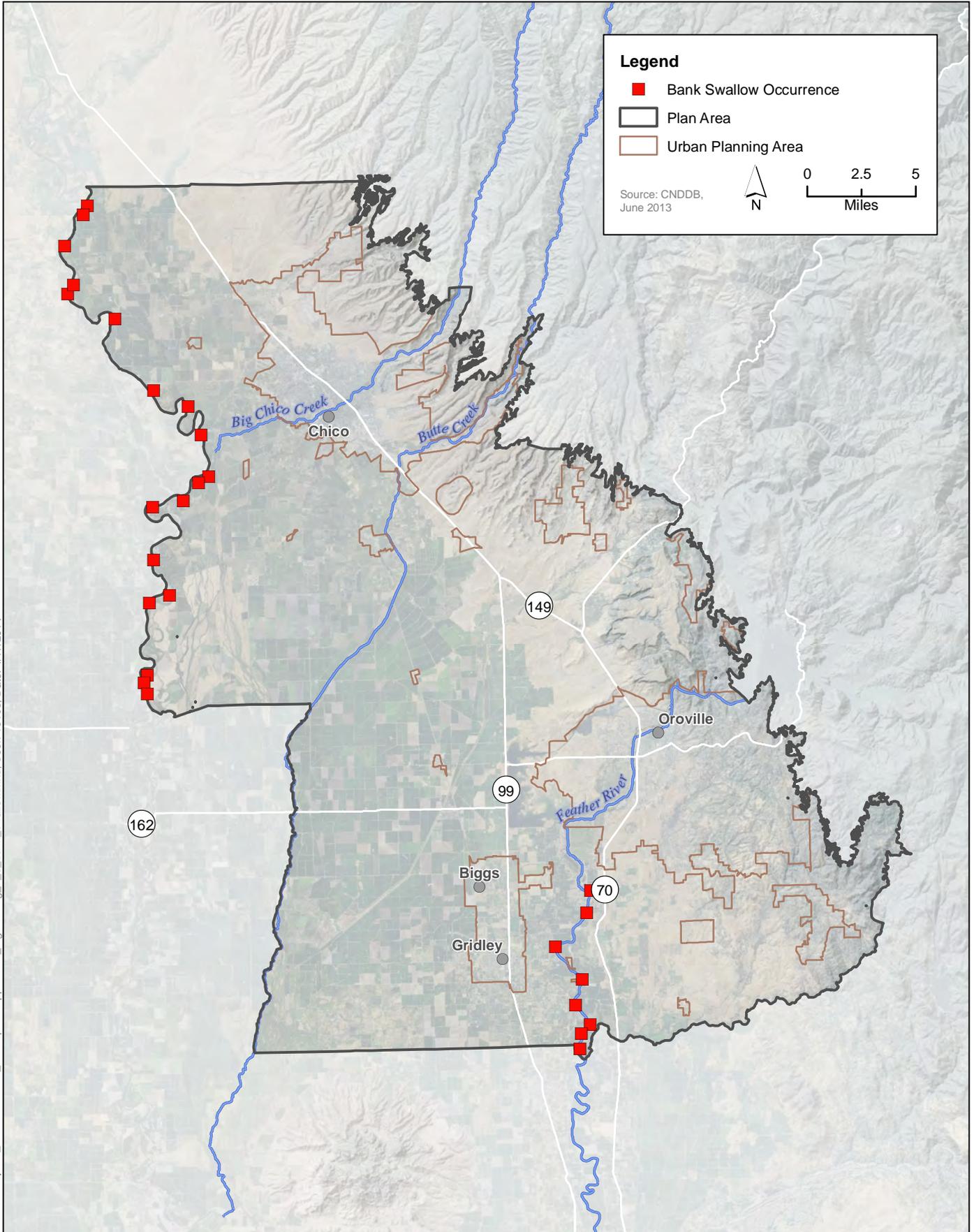


Figure F-3
Bank Swallow Occurrences in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_4_Western_Burrowing_Owl.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

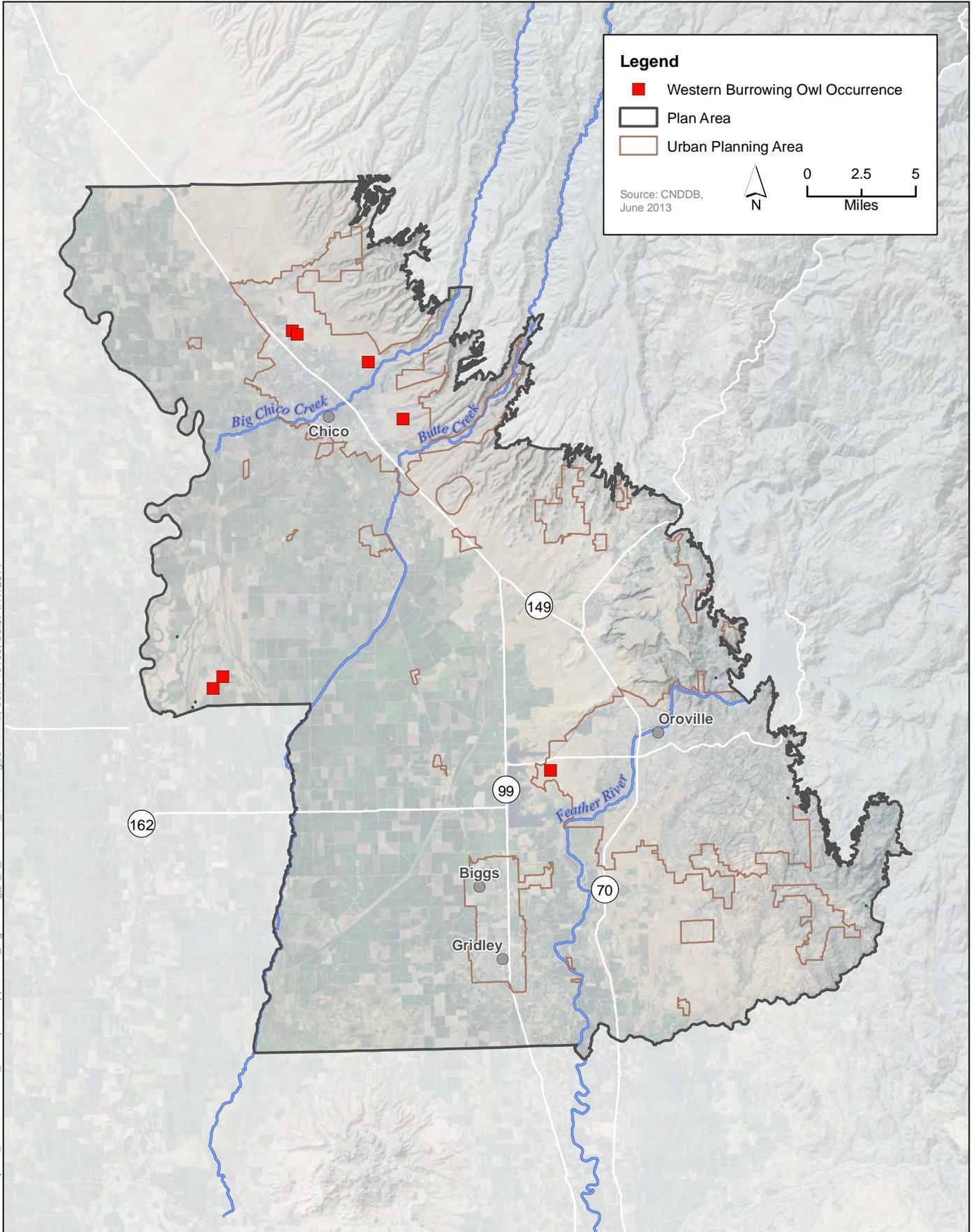


Figure F-4
Western Burrowing Owl Occurrences in the Plan Area

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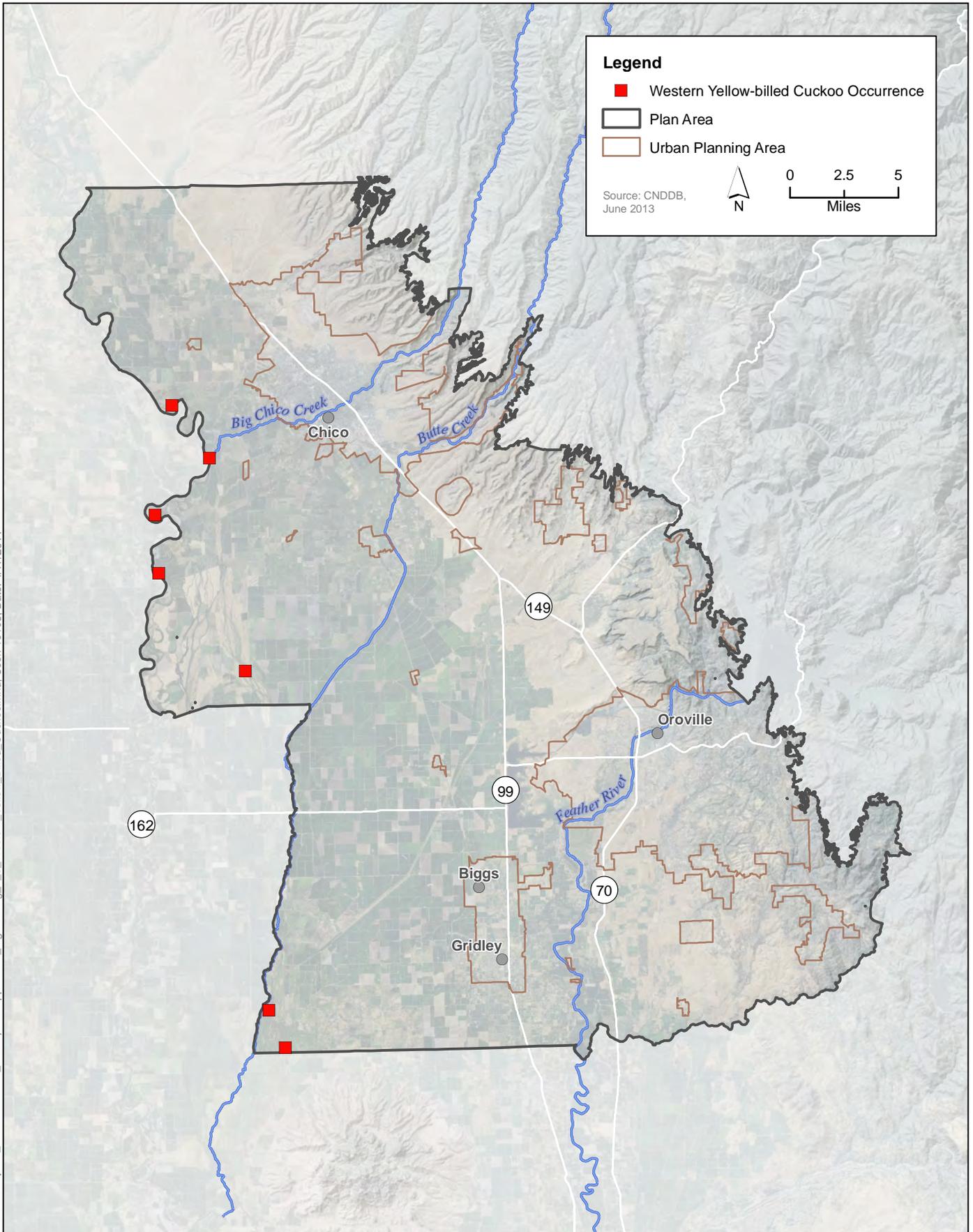


Figure F-5
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Occurrences in the Plan Area

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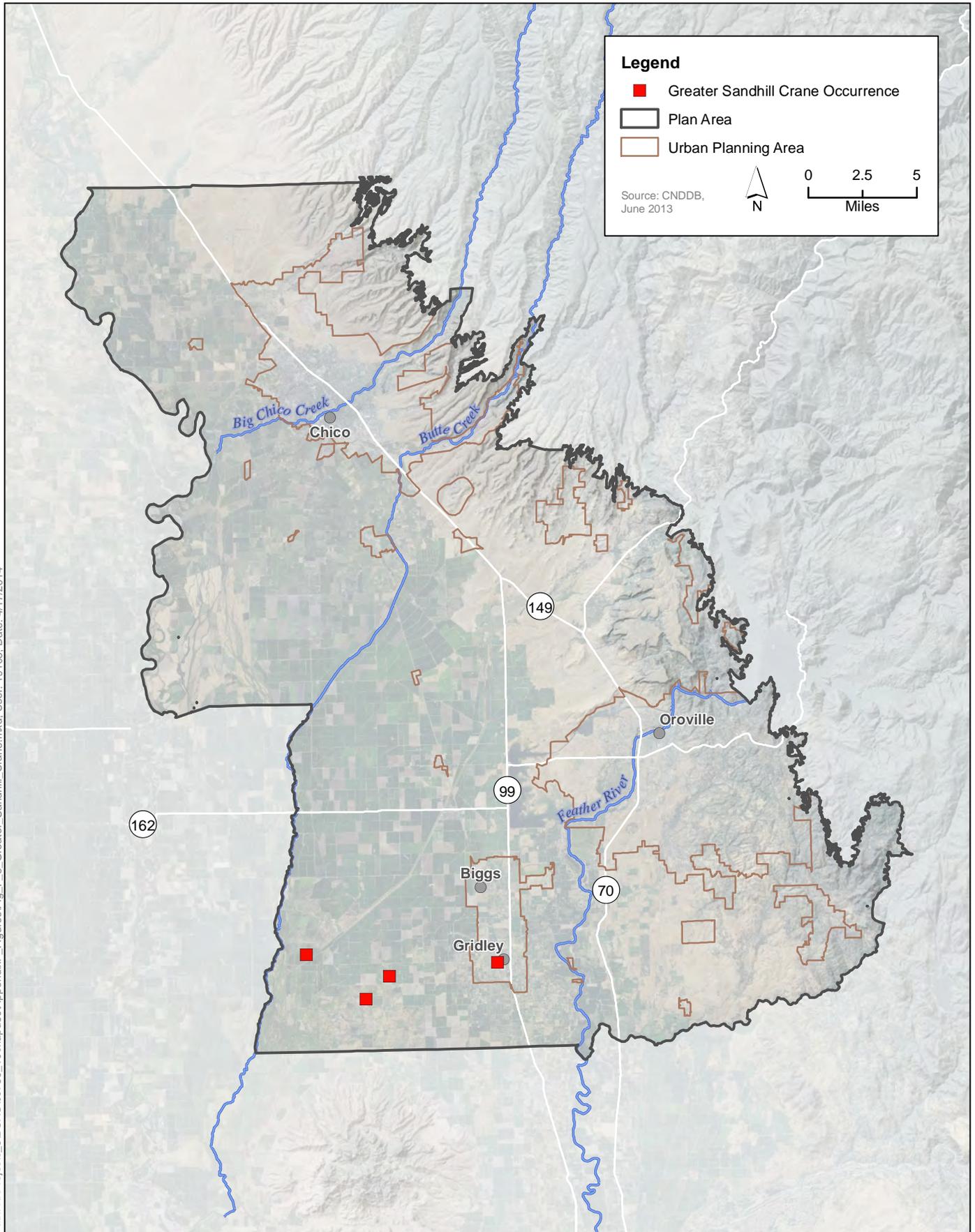


Figure F-6
Greater Sandhill Crane Occurrences in the Plan Area

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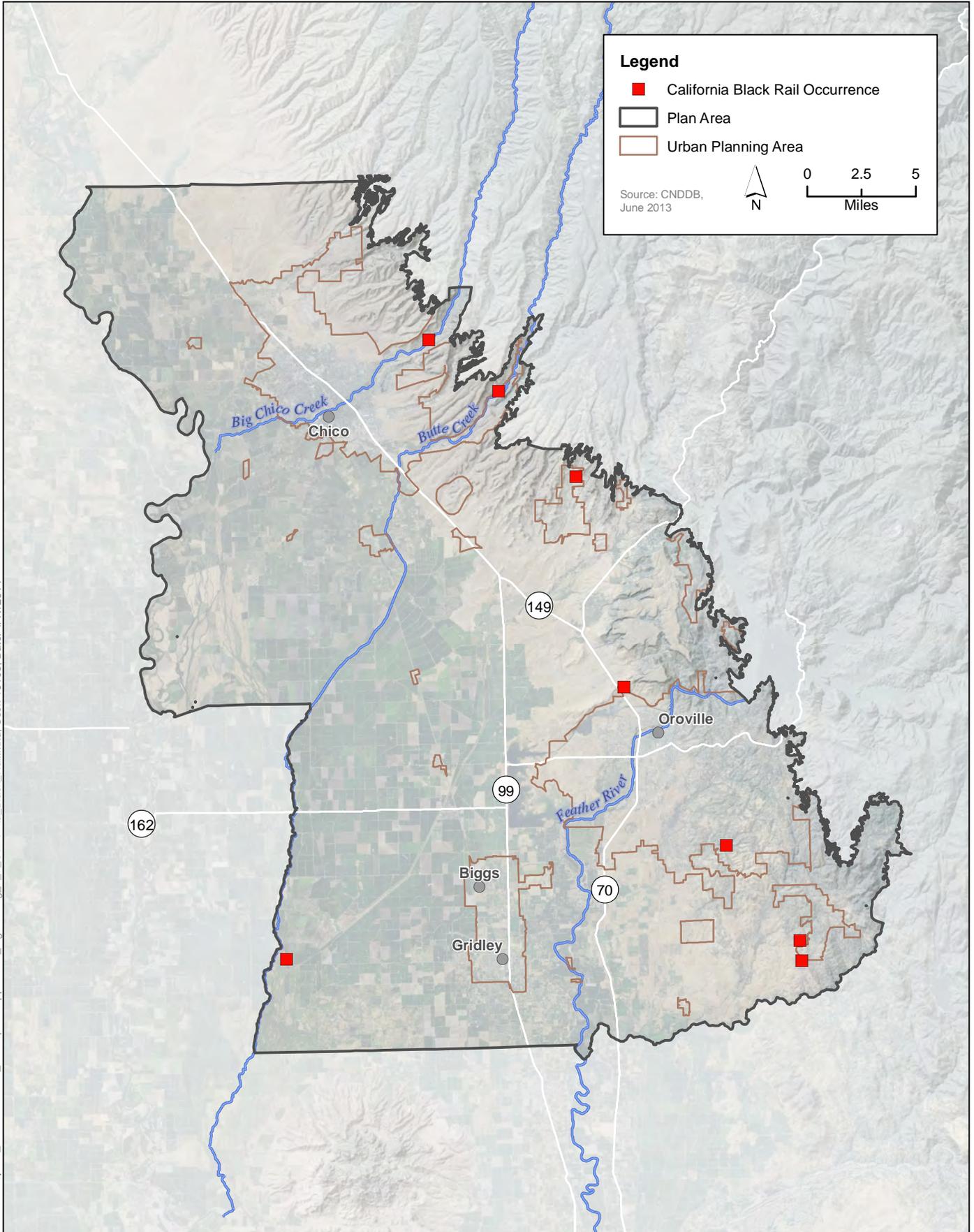


Figure F-7
California Black Rail Occurrences in the Plan Area

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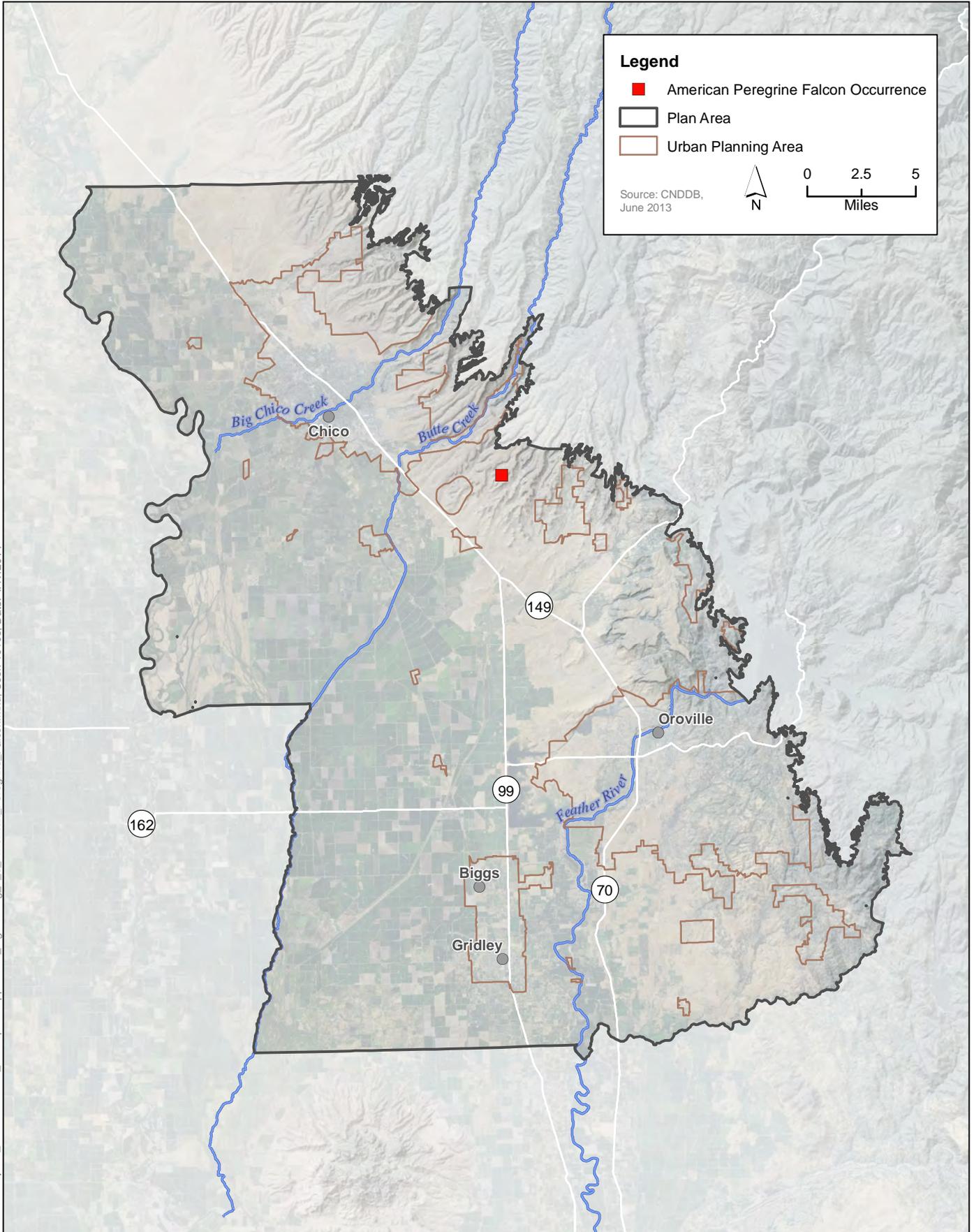


Figure F-8
American Peregrine Falcon Occurrences in the Plan Area

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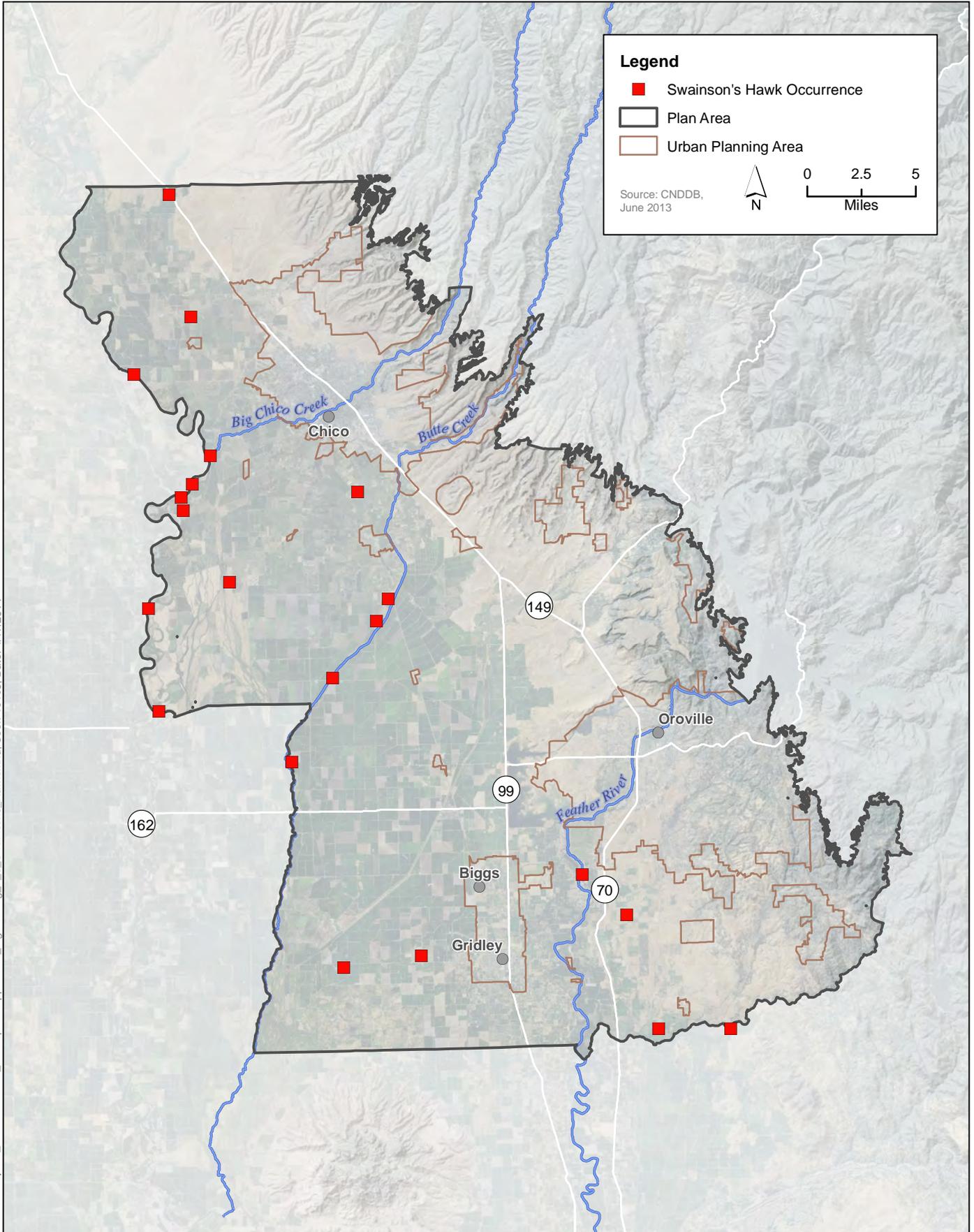


Figure F-9
Swainson's Hawk Occurrences in the Plan Area

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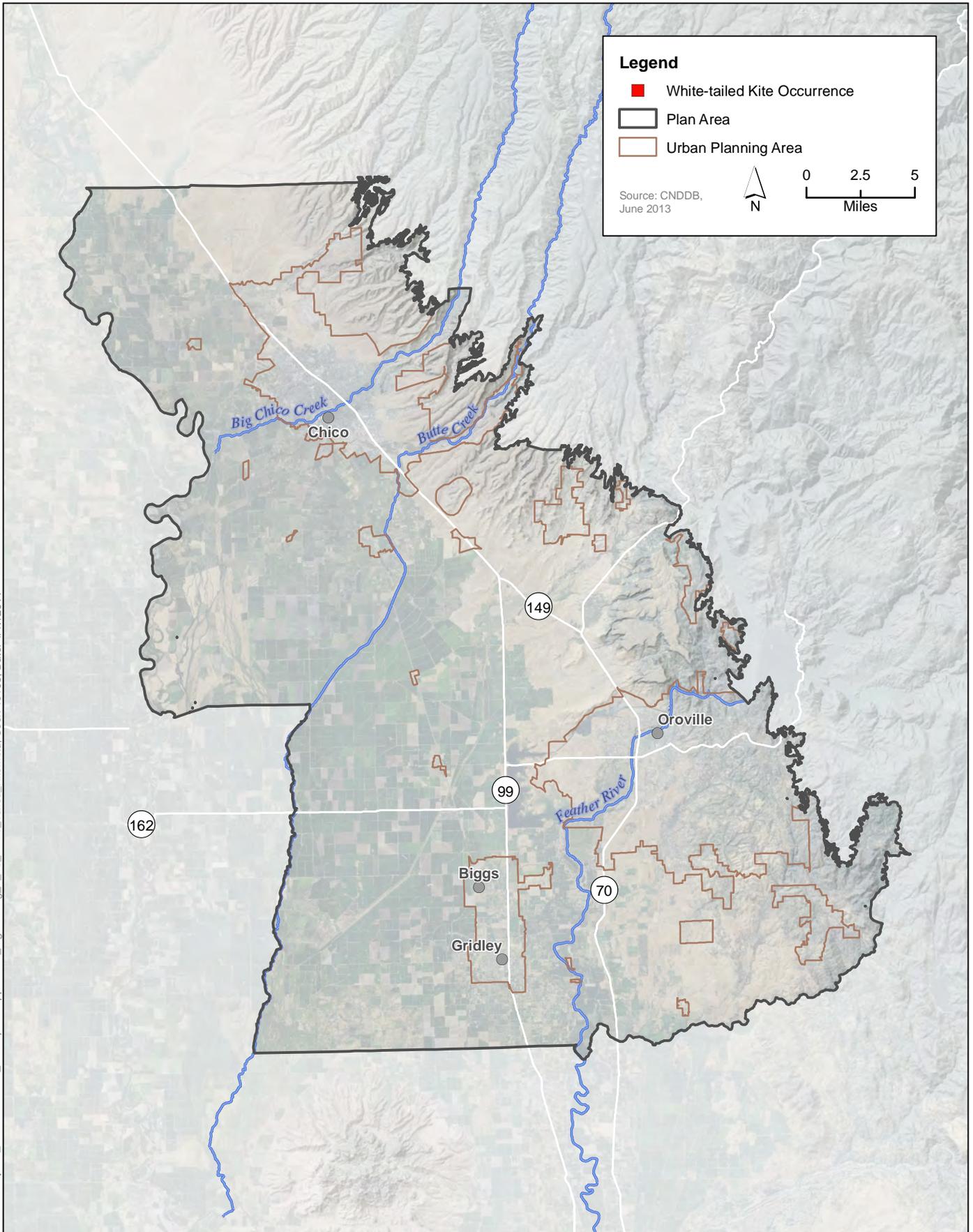


Figure F-10
White-tailed Kite Occurrences in the Plan Area

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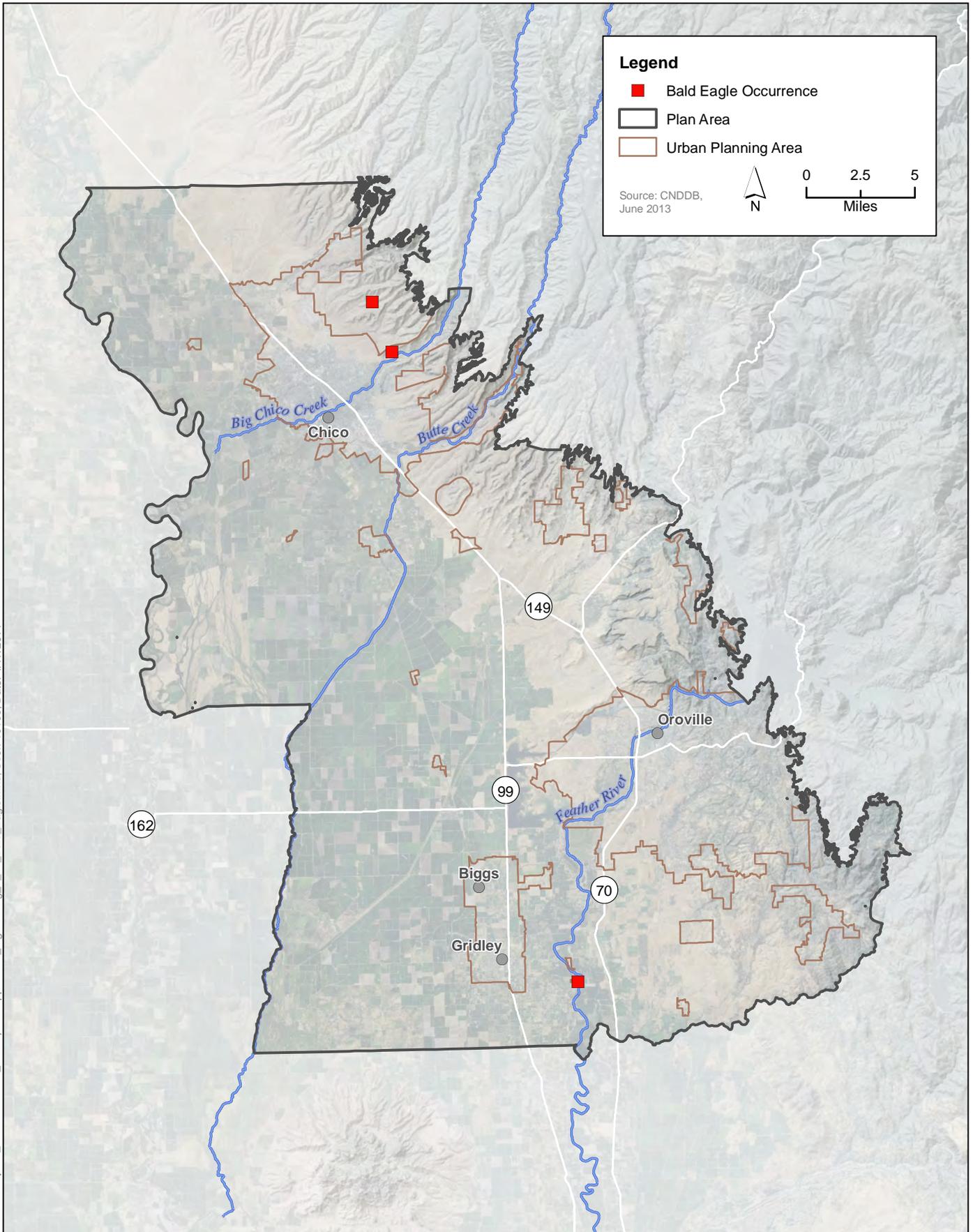


Figure F-11
Bald Eagle Occurrences in the Plan Area

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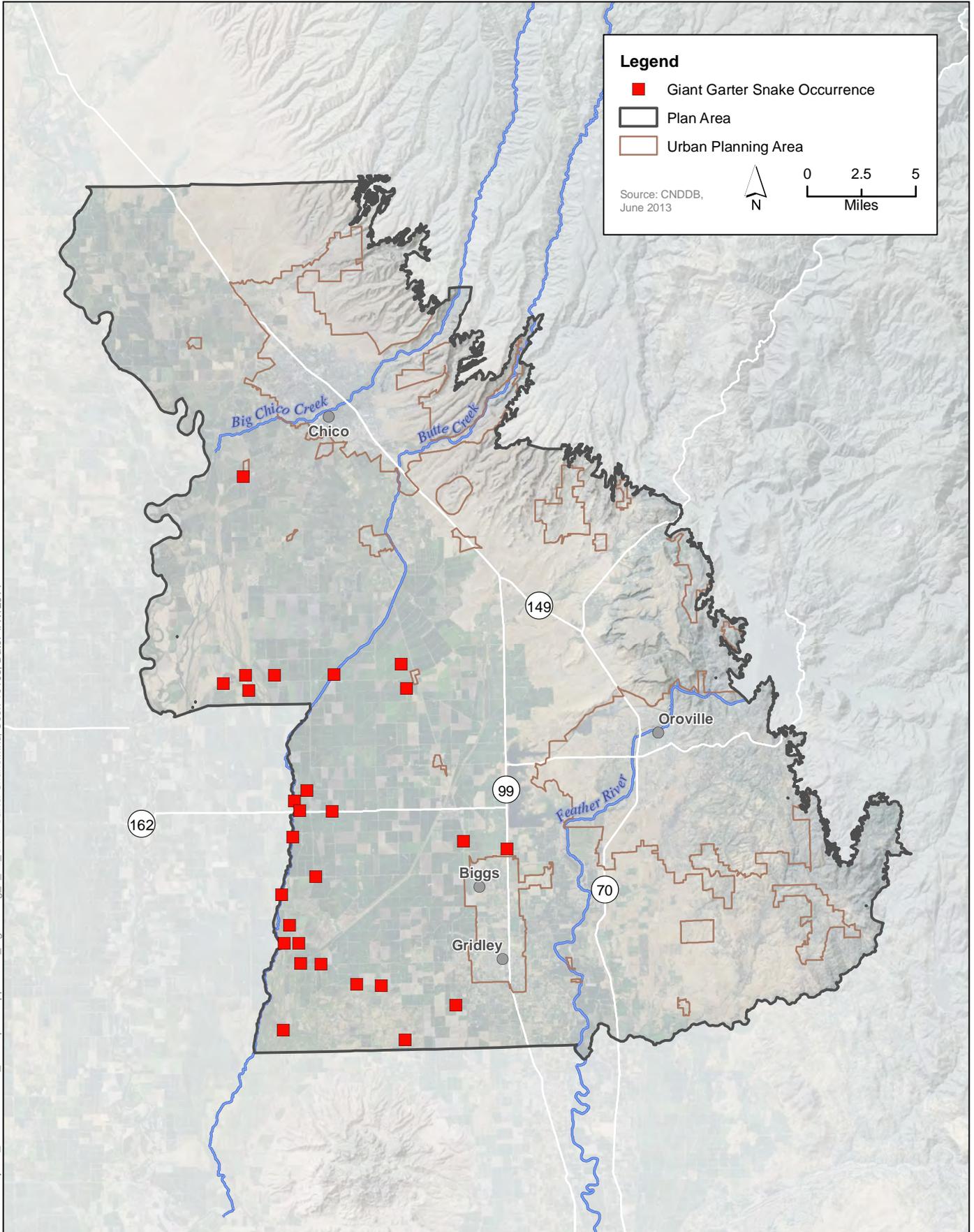


Figure F-12
Giant Garter Snake Occurrences in the Plan Area

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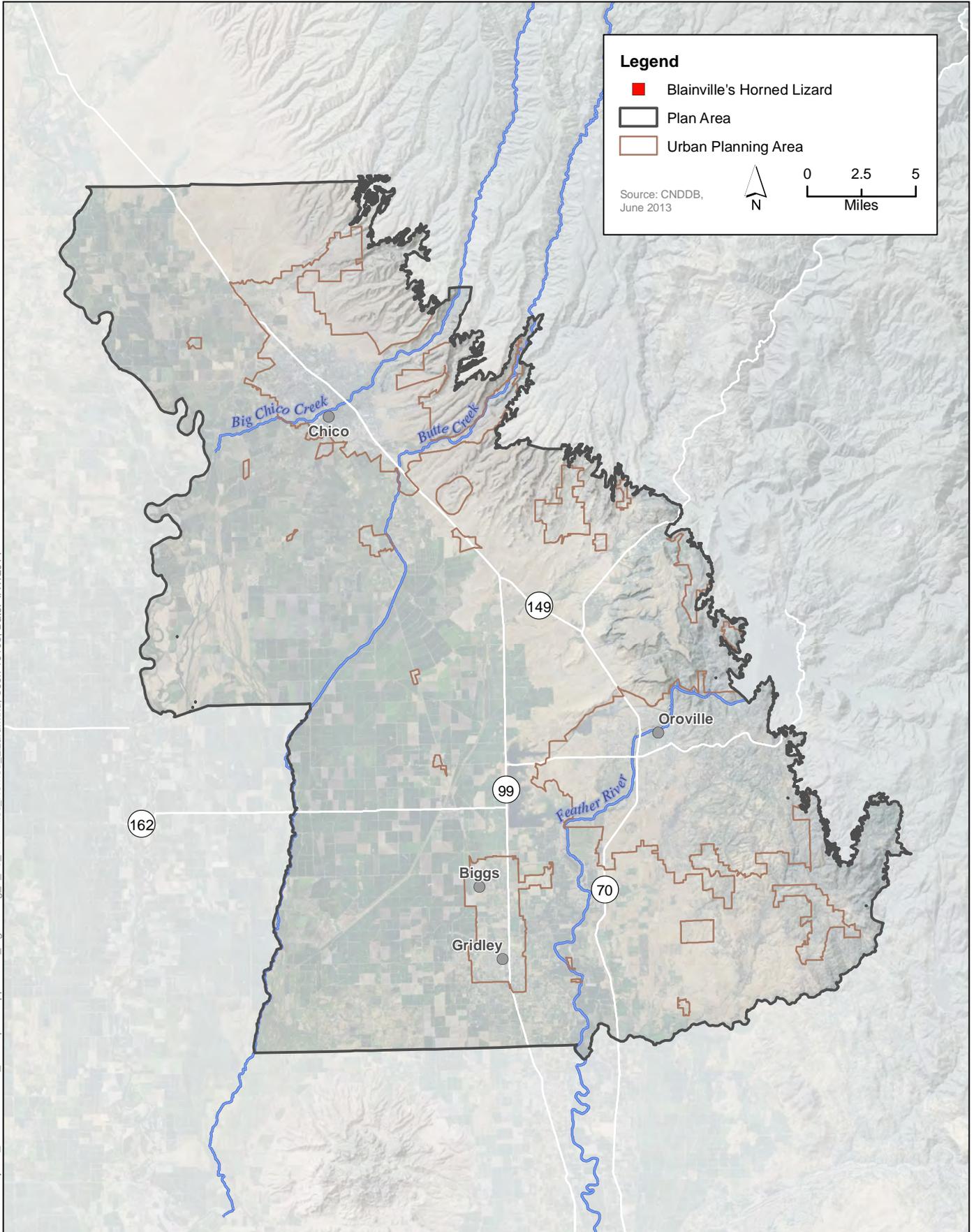


Figure F-13
Blainville's Horned Lizard Occurrences in the Plan Area

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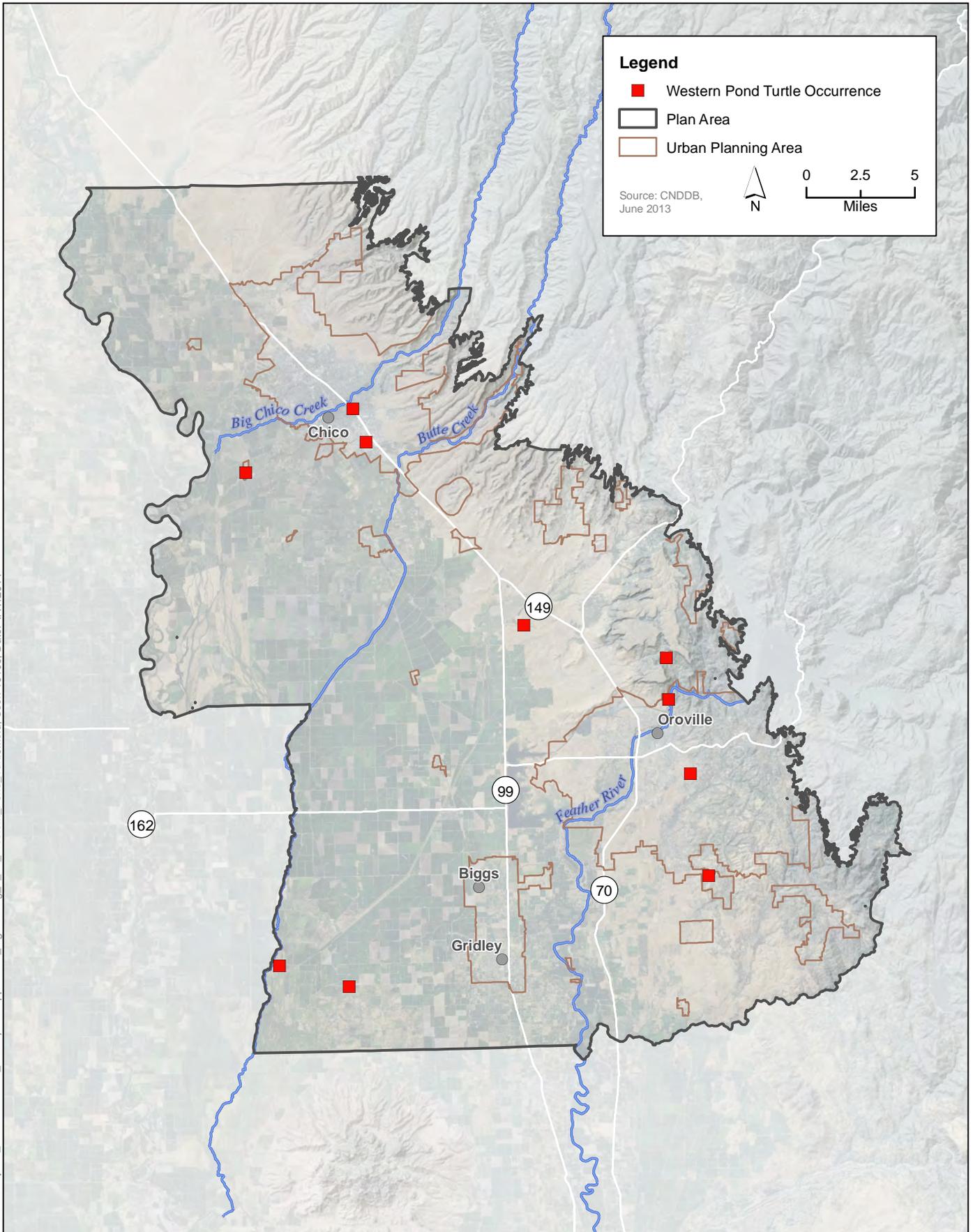


Figure F-14
Western Pond Turtle Occurrences in the Plan Area

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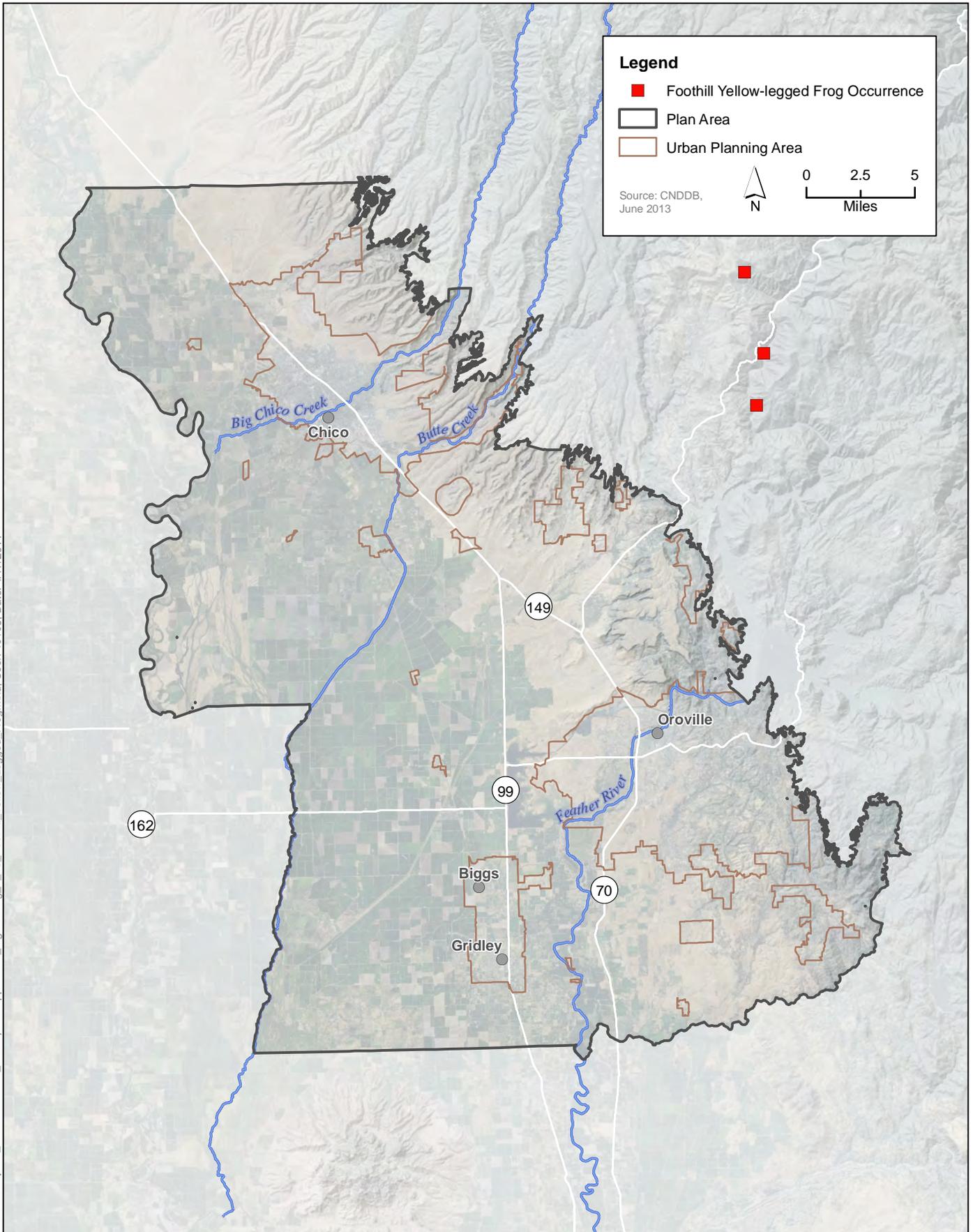


Figure F-15
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Occurrences near the Plan Area

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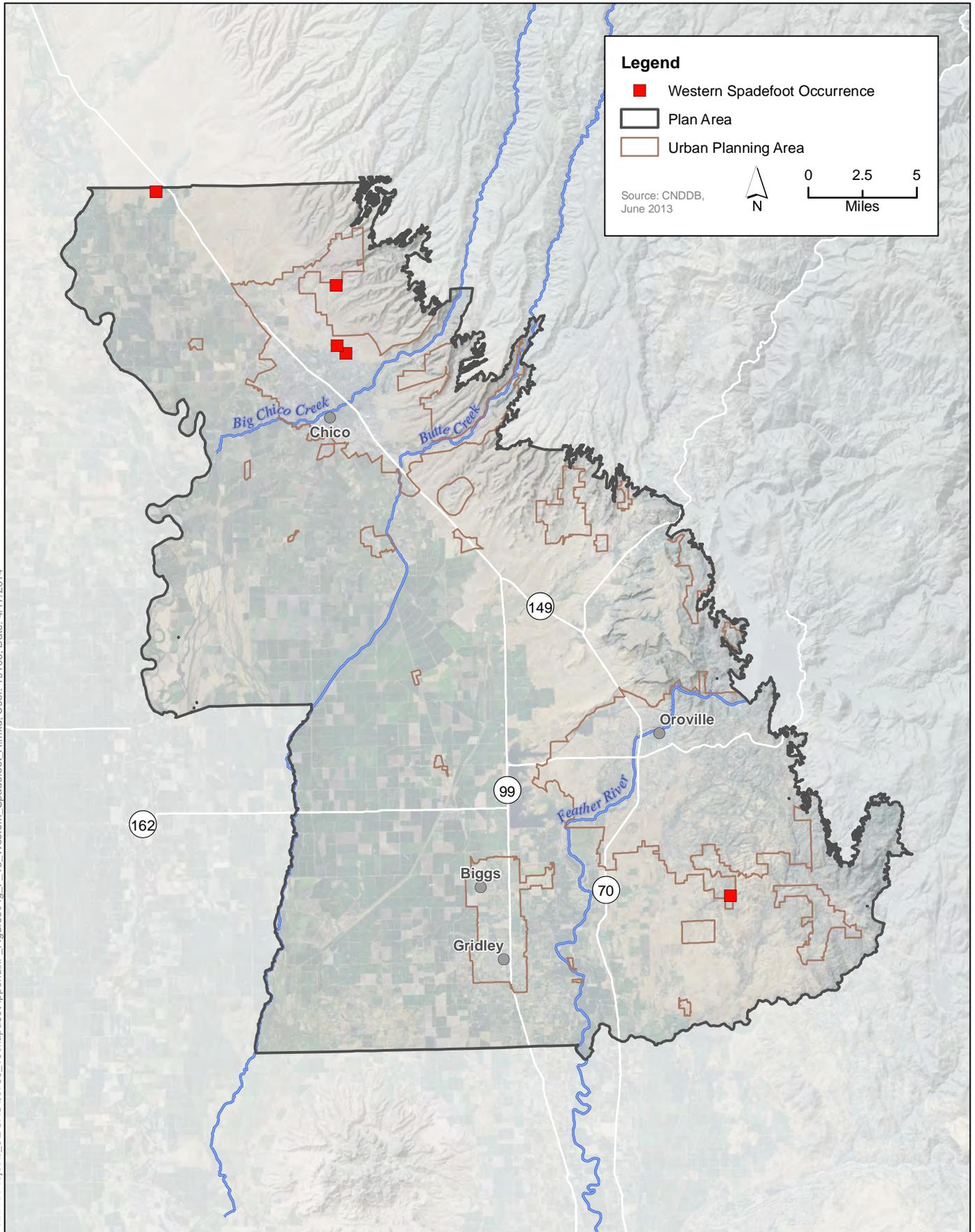


Figure F-16
Western Spadefoot Occurrences in the Plan Area

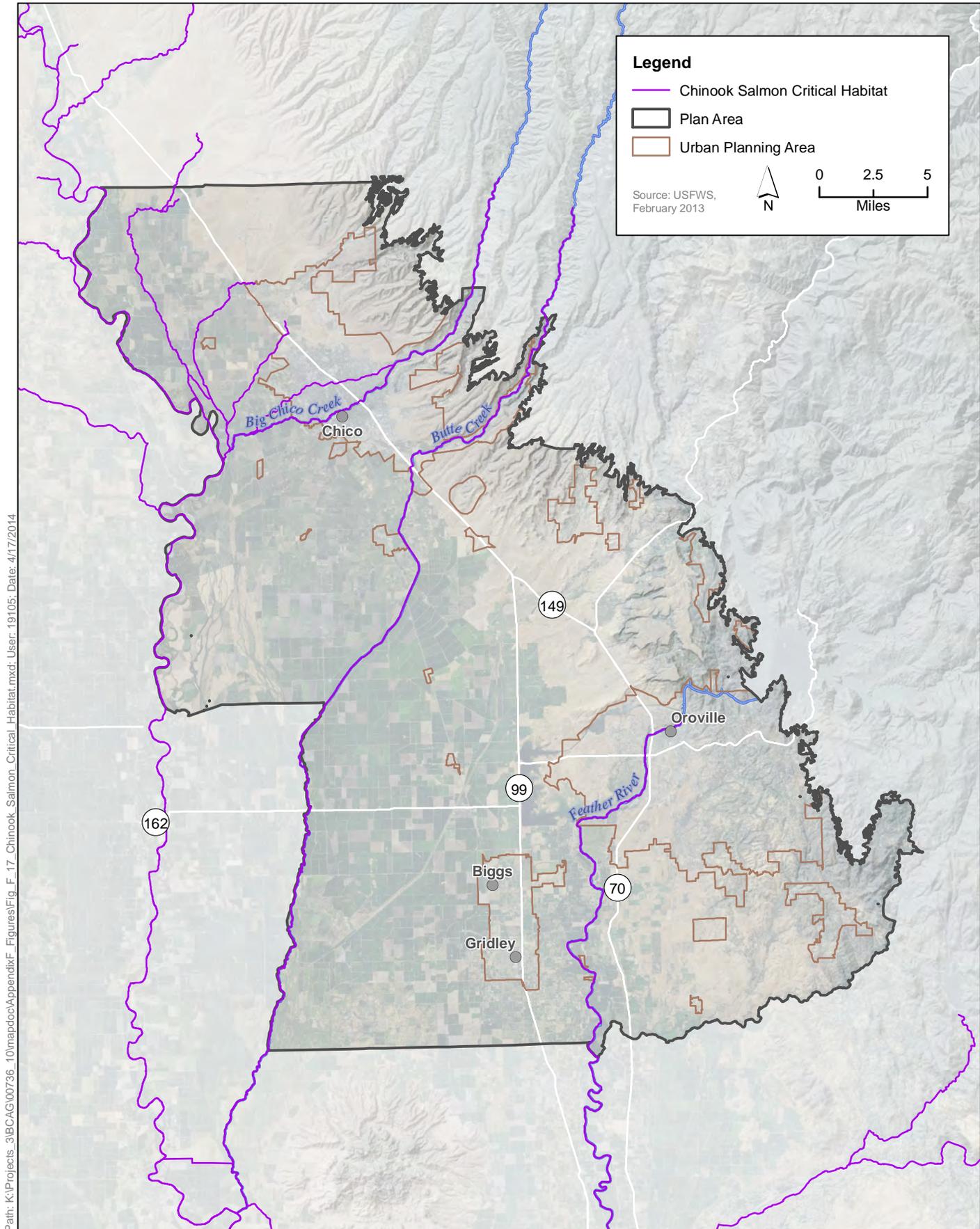
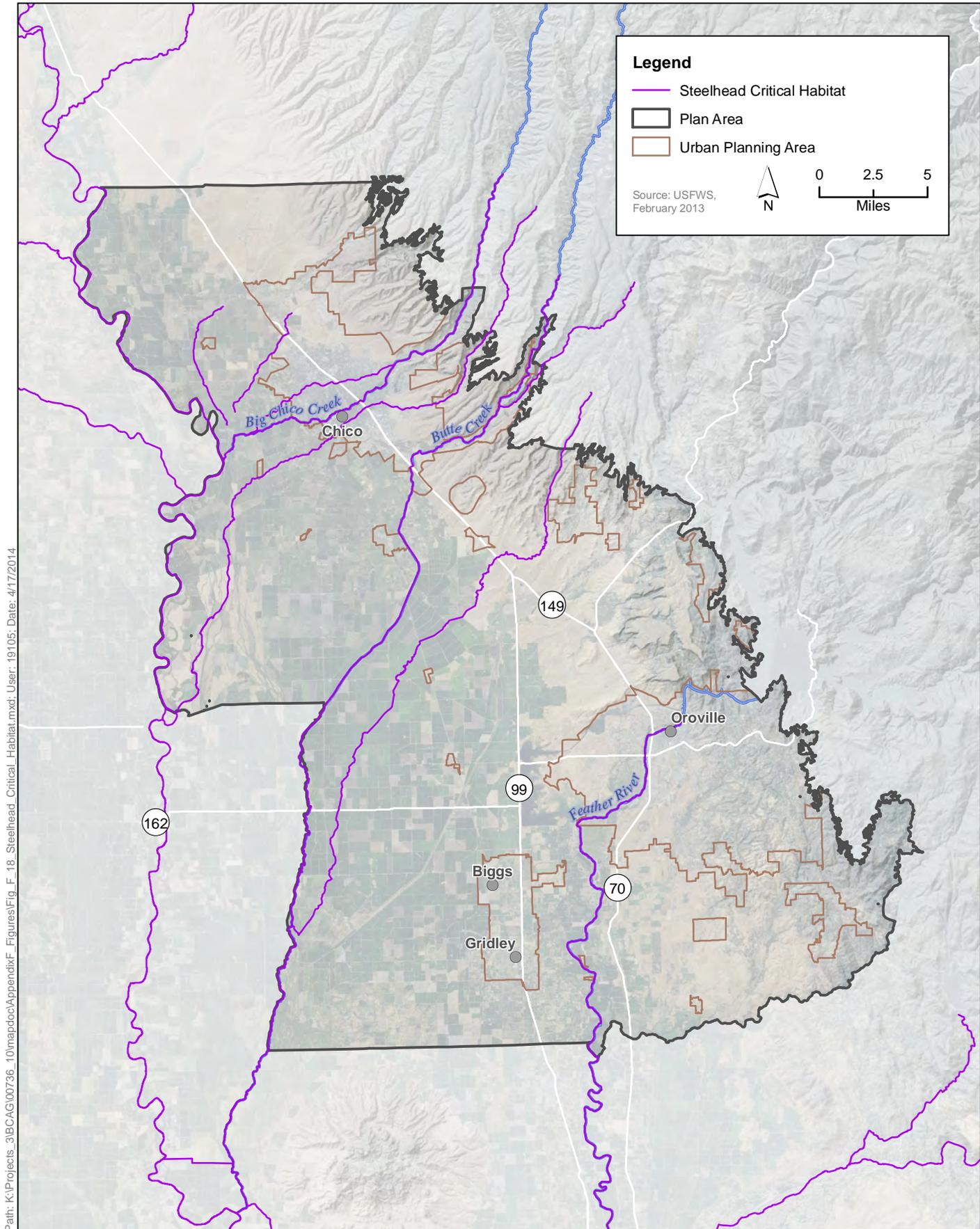


Figure F-17
Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat in the Plan Area



Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_18_Steelhead_Critical_Habitat.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014



Figure F-18
Steelhead Critical Habitat in the Plan Area

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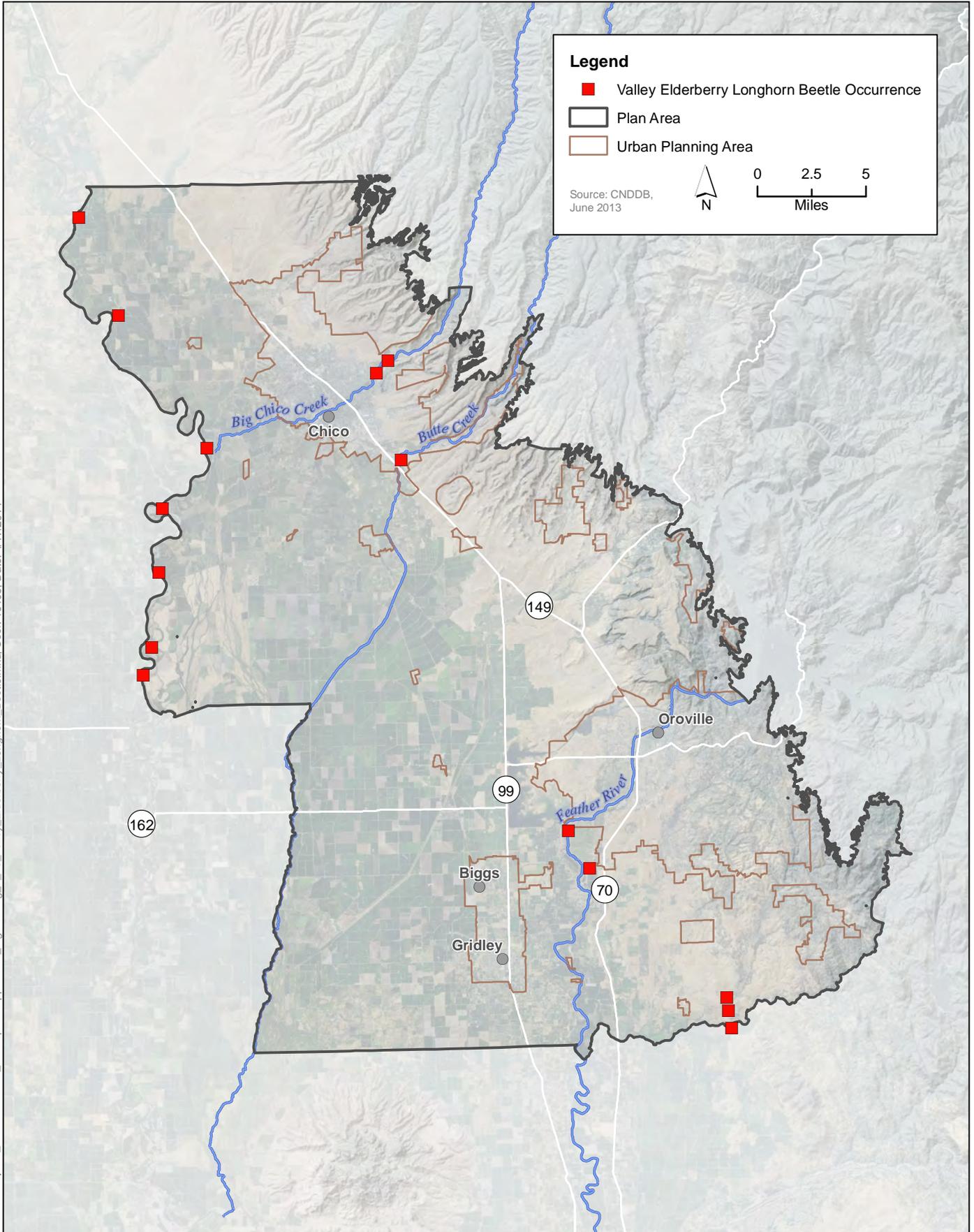


Figure F-19
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Occurrences in the Plan Area

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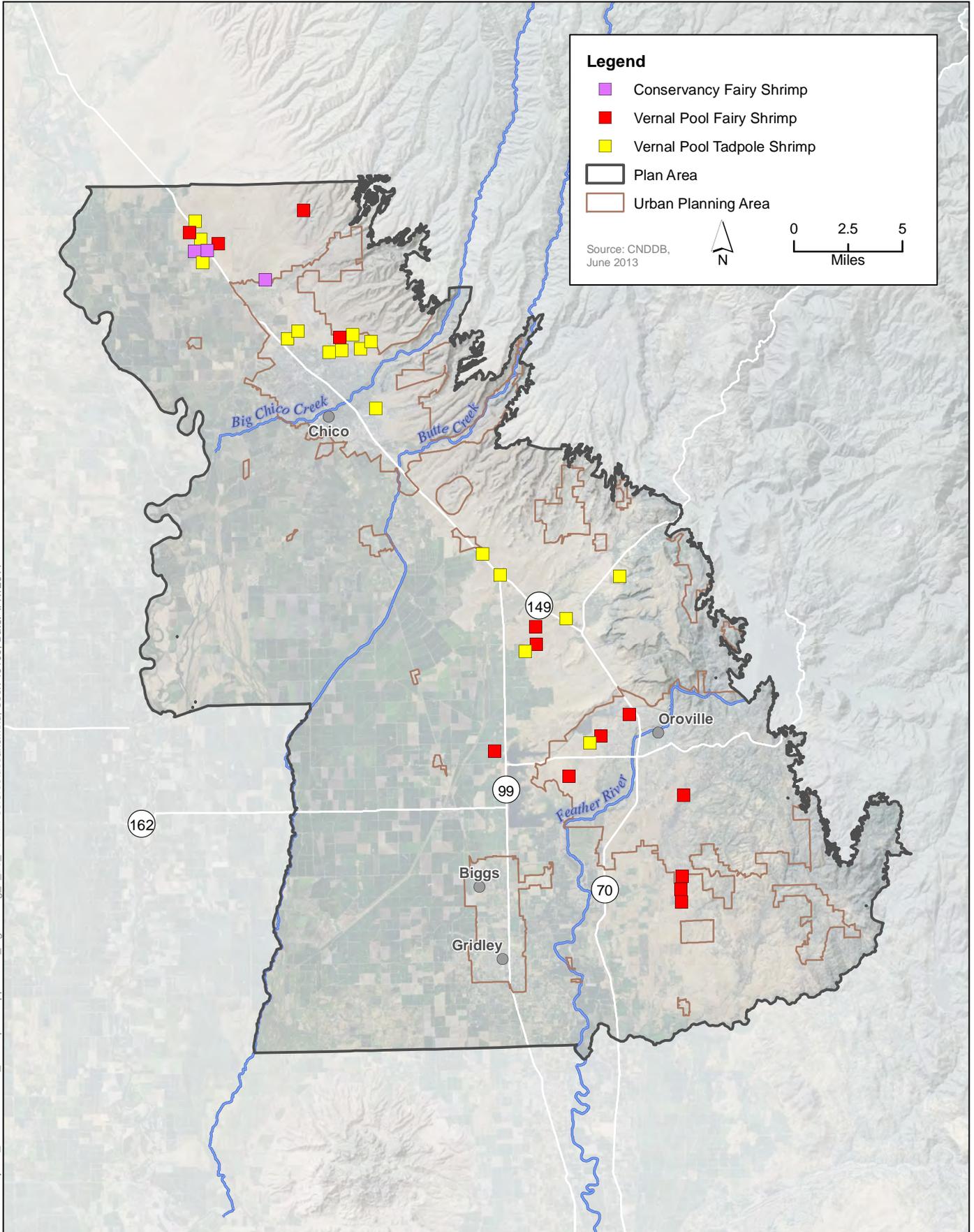
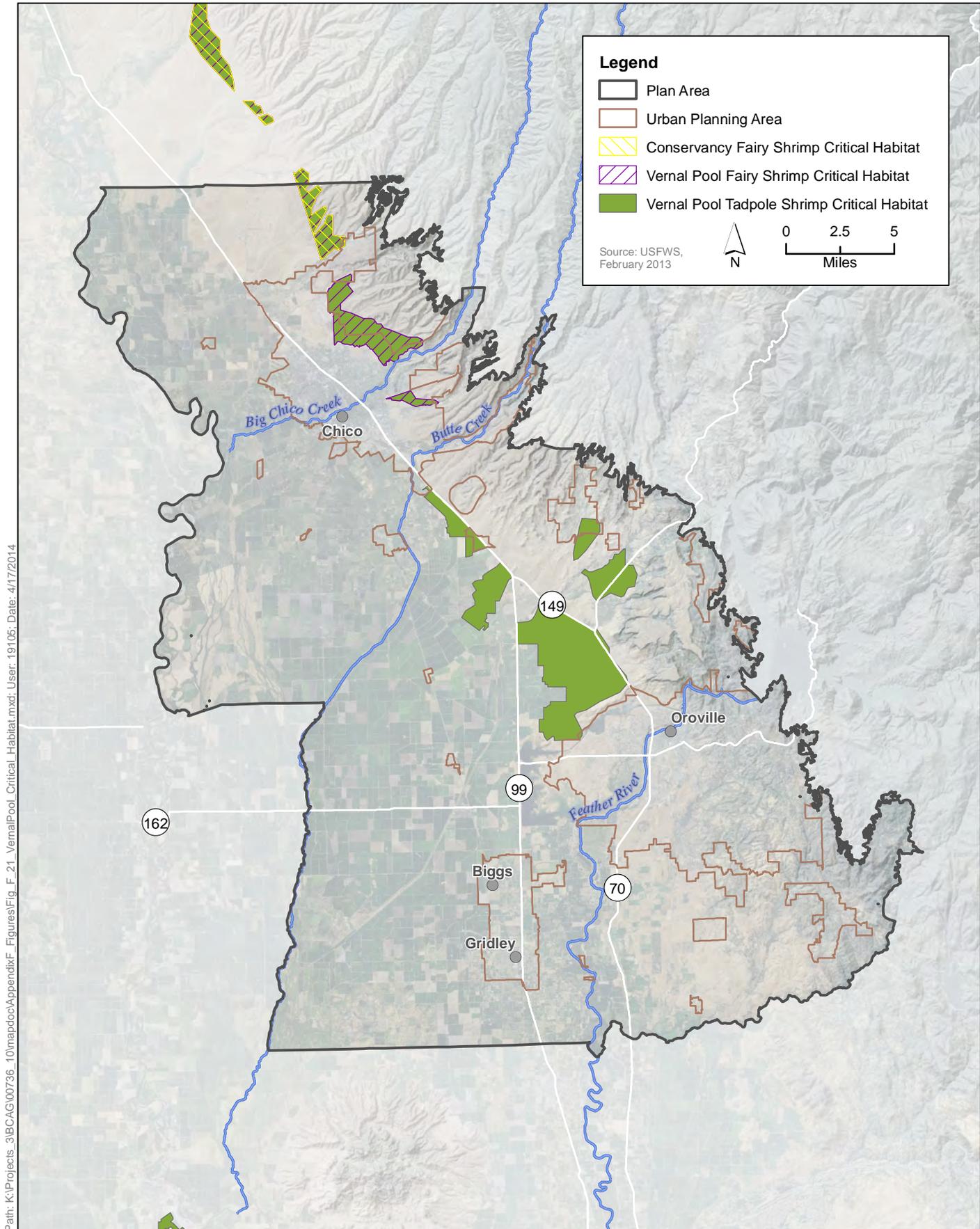


Figure F-20
Vernal Pool Crustacean Occurrences in the Plan Area



Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_21_VernalPool_Critical_Habitat.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014



Figure F-21
Vernal Pool Crustaceans Critical Habitat in the Plan Area

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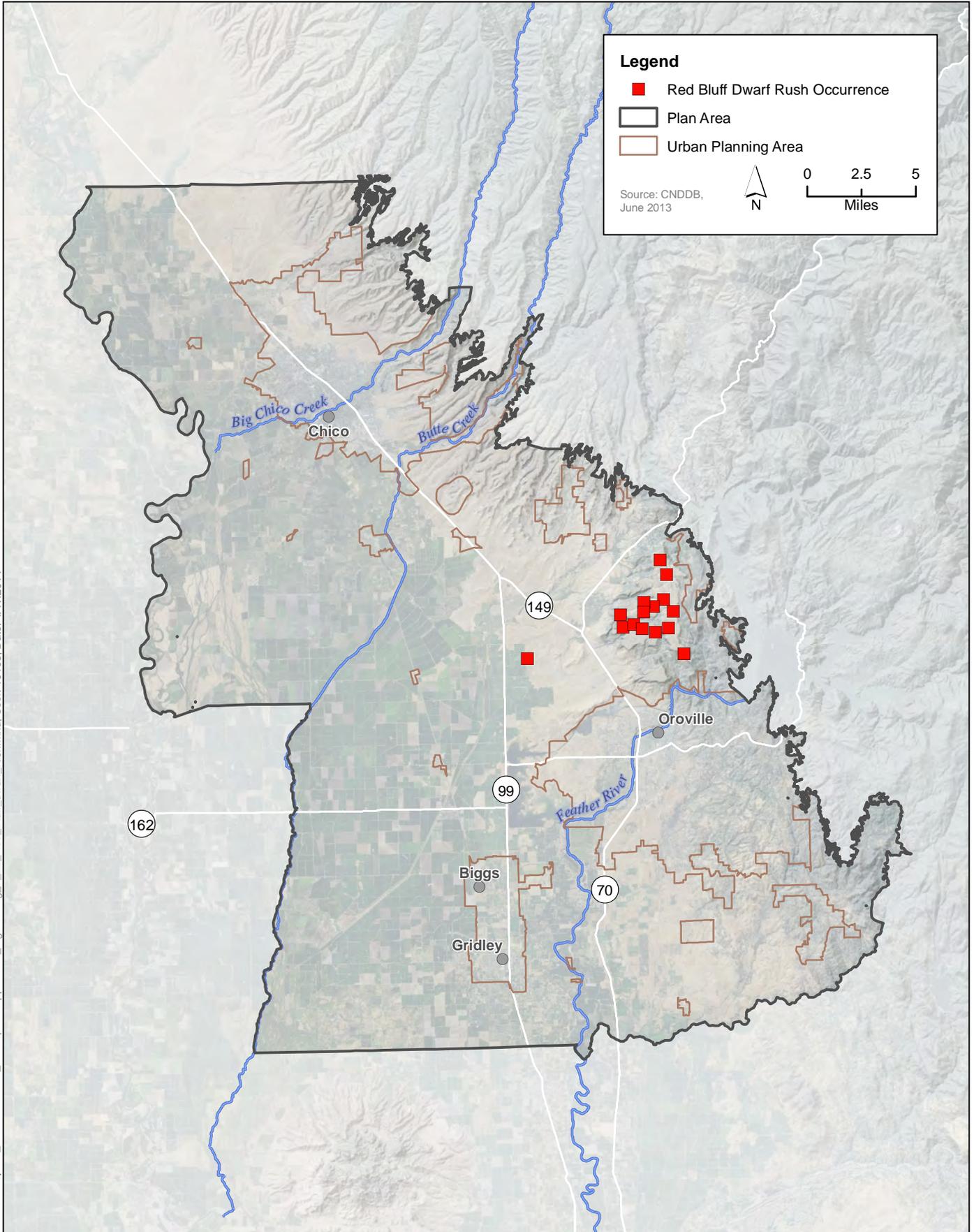


Figure F-22
Red Bluff Dwarf Rush Occurrences in the Plan Area

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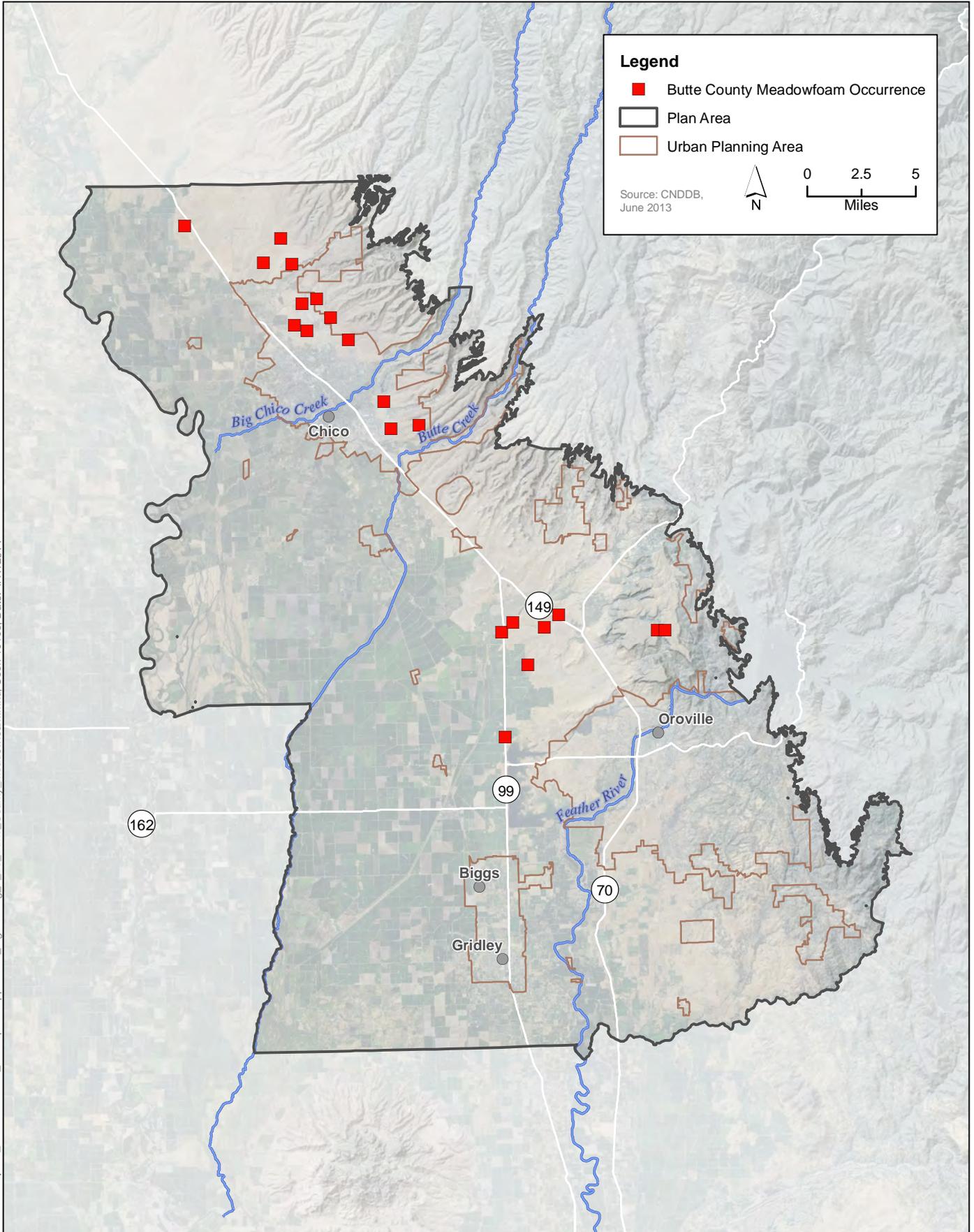


Figure F-23
Butte County Meadowfoam Occurrences in the Plan Area

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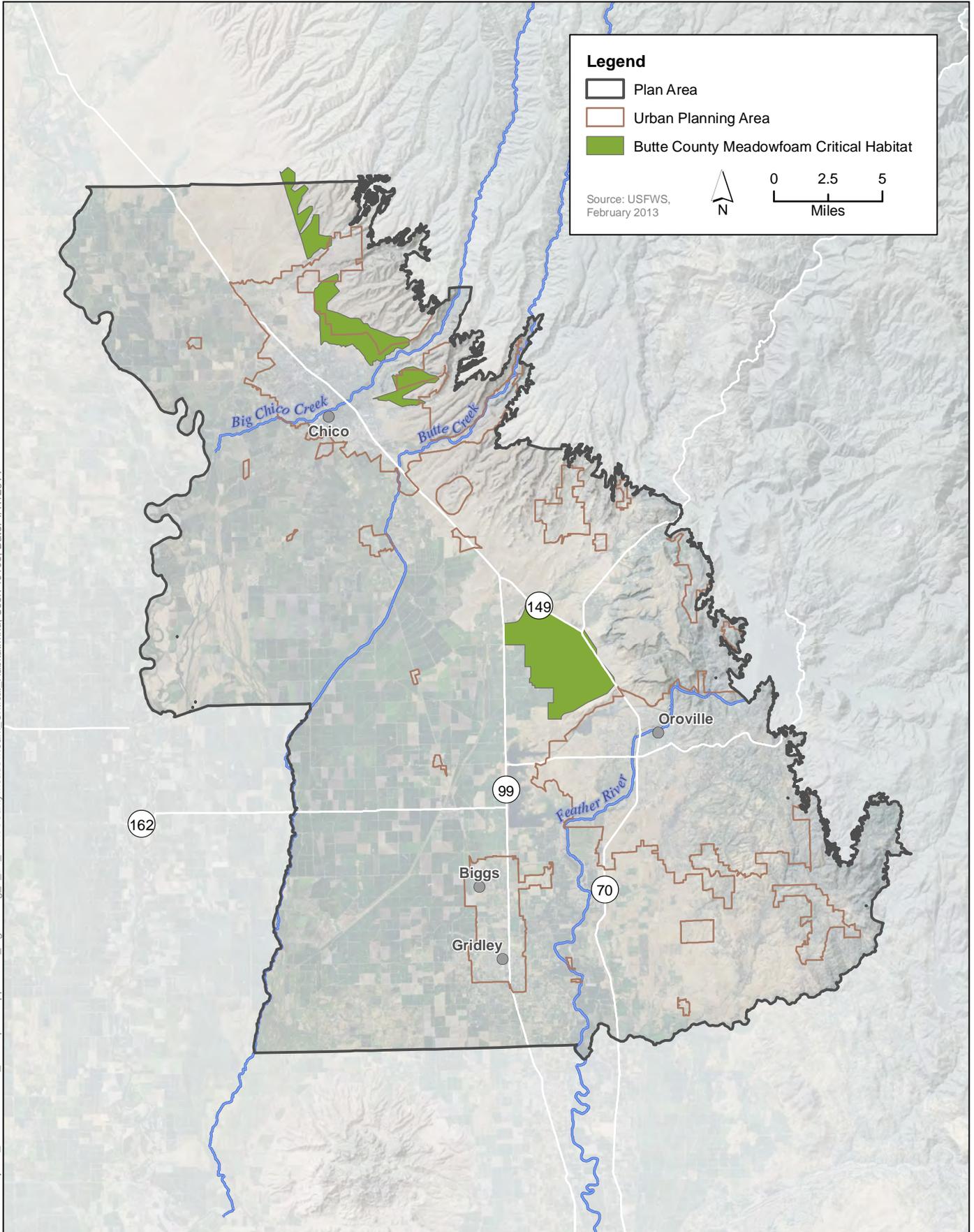


Figure F-24
Butte County Meadowfoam Critical Habitat in the Plan Area

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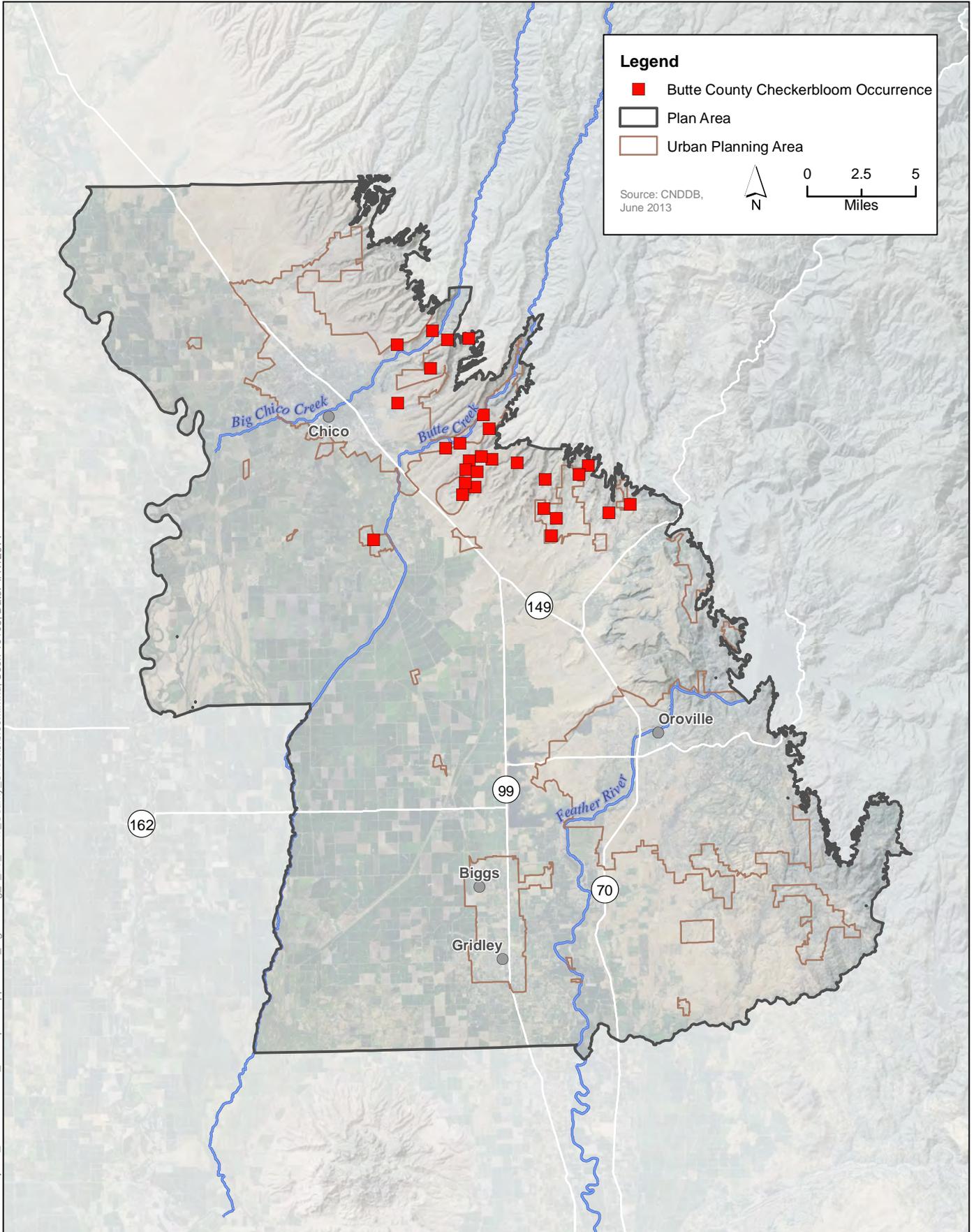


Figure F-25
Butte County Checkerbloom Occurrences in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_26_Other Plant_Critical_Habitat.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

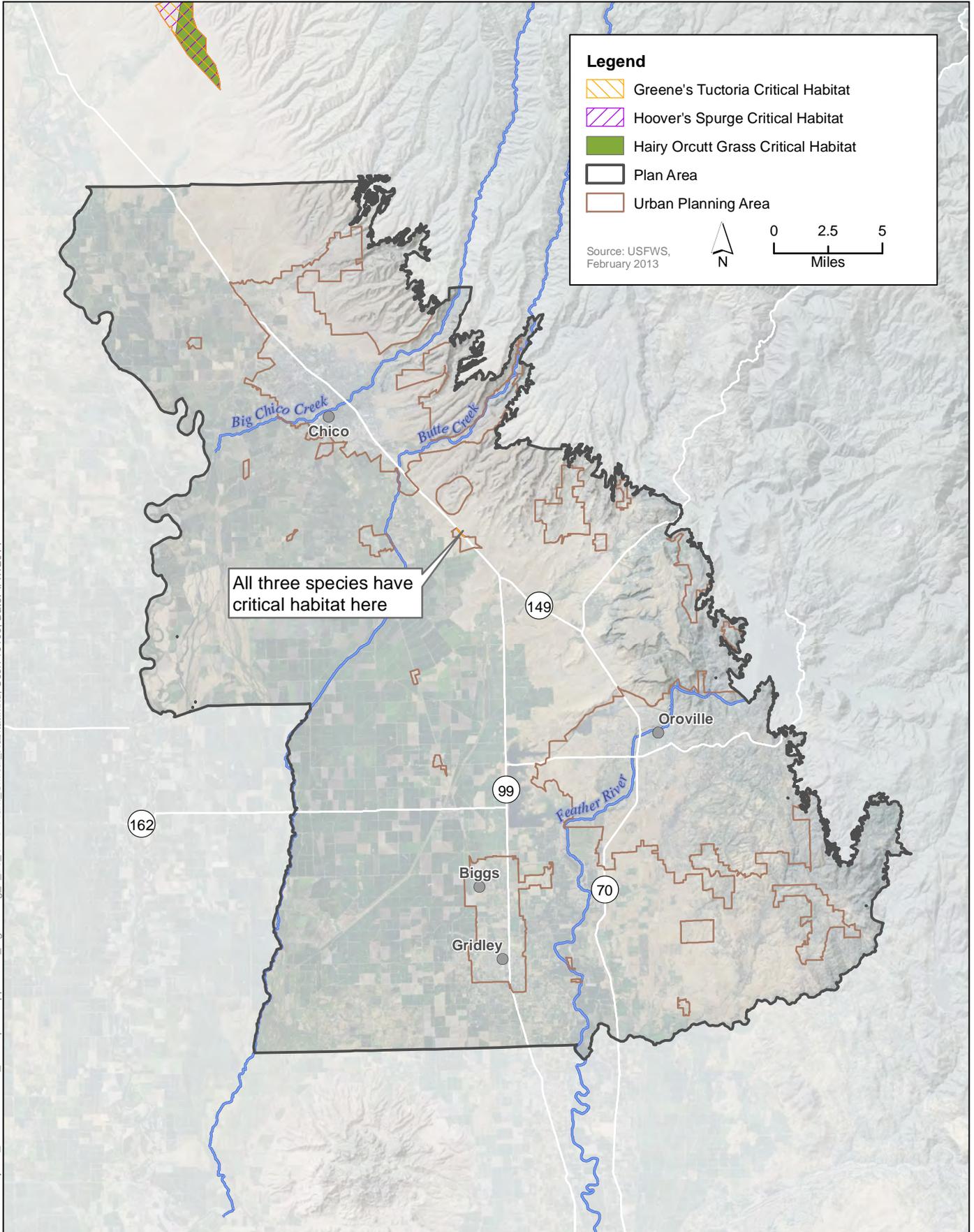


Figure F-26
Other Special-Status Plants Critical Habitat in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_27_AntiochDunesSacramentoAnthicidBeetles.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

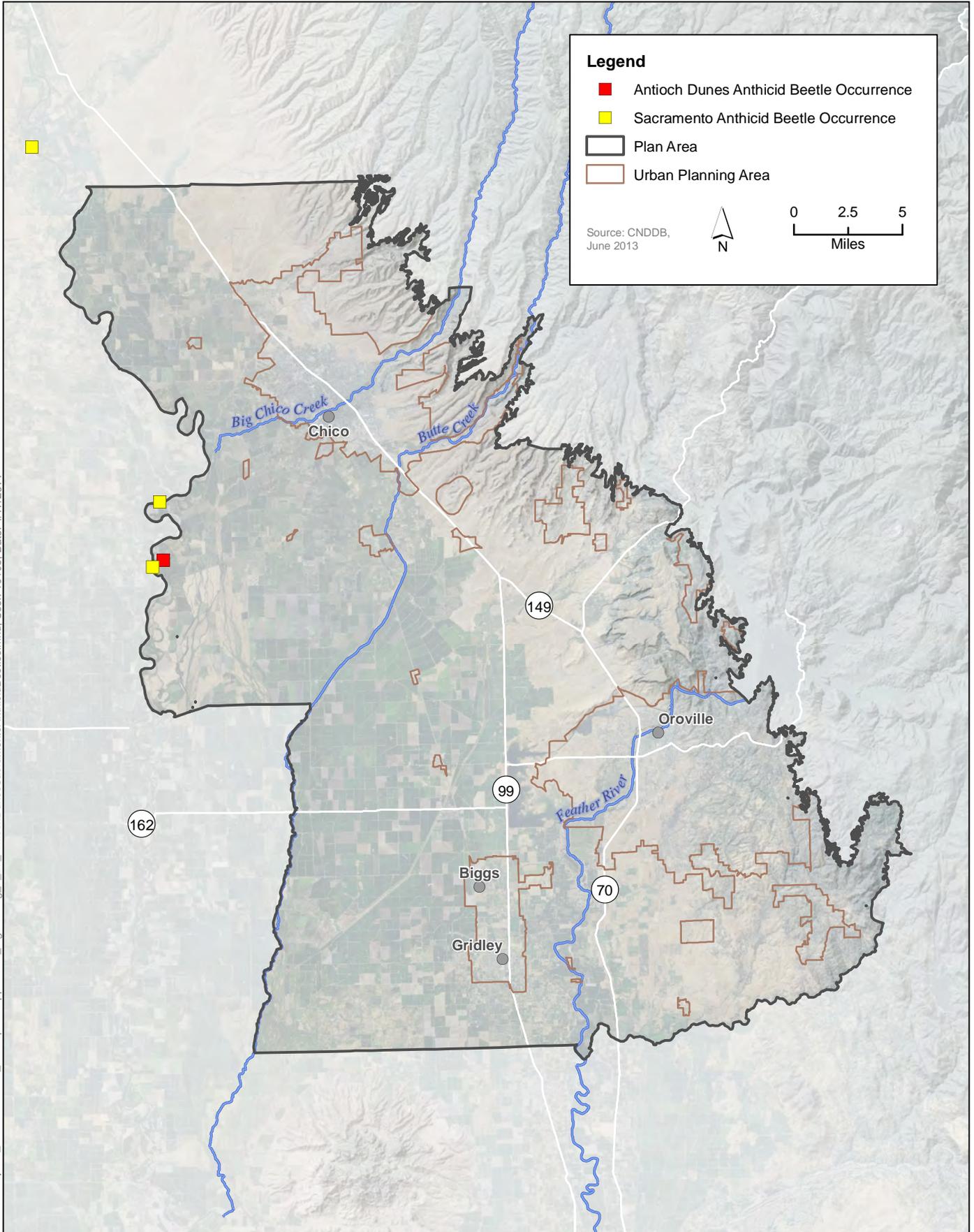


Figure F-27
Anthicid Beetle Occurrences near the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_28_NonCoverSpecialStatusBirdSpecies.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

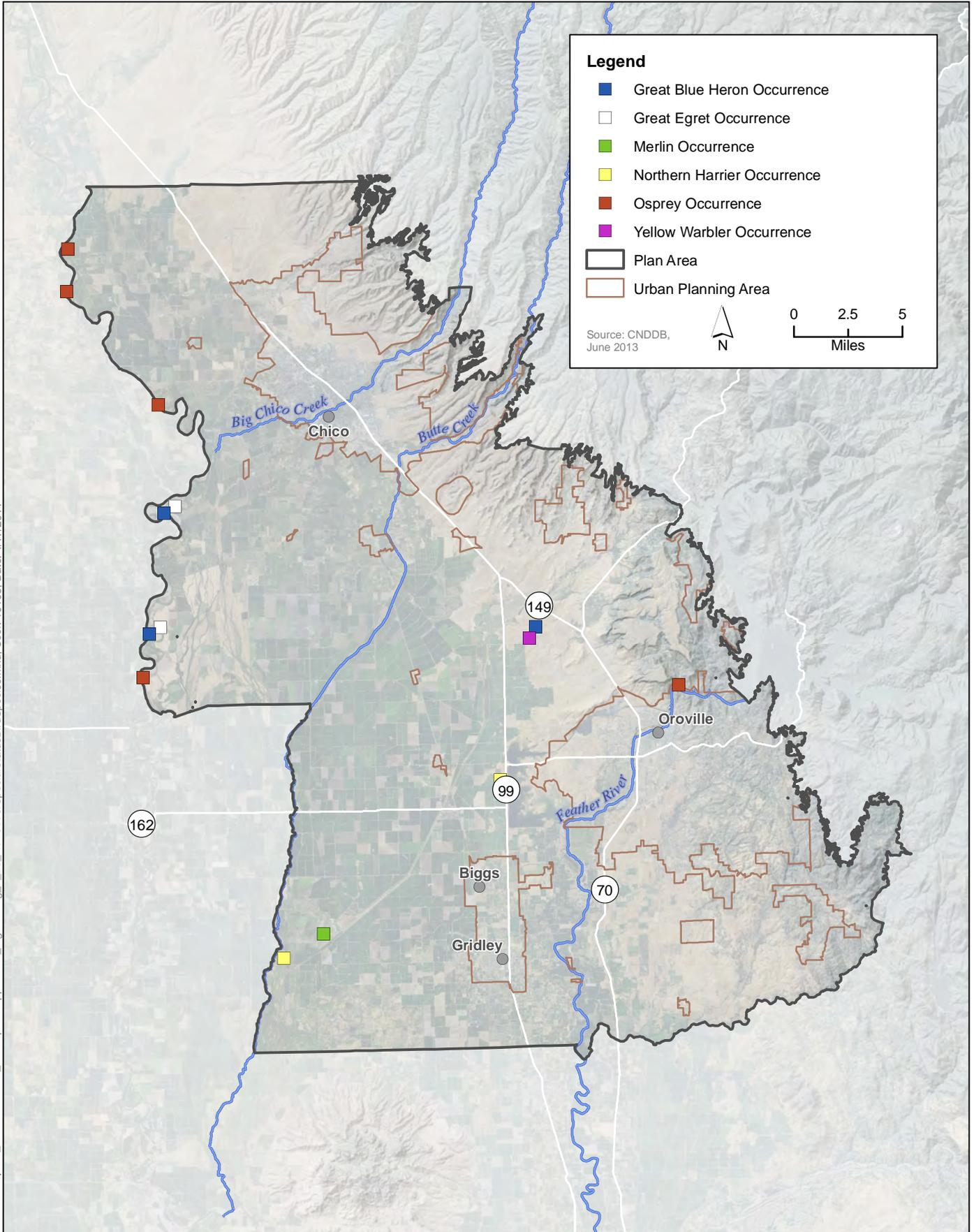


Figure F-28
Non-covered Special Status Bird Occurrences in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_29_Bats.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

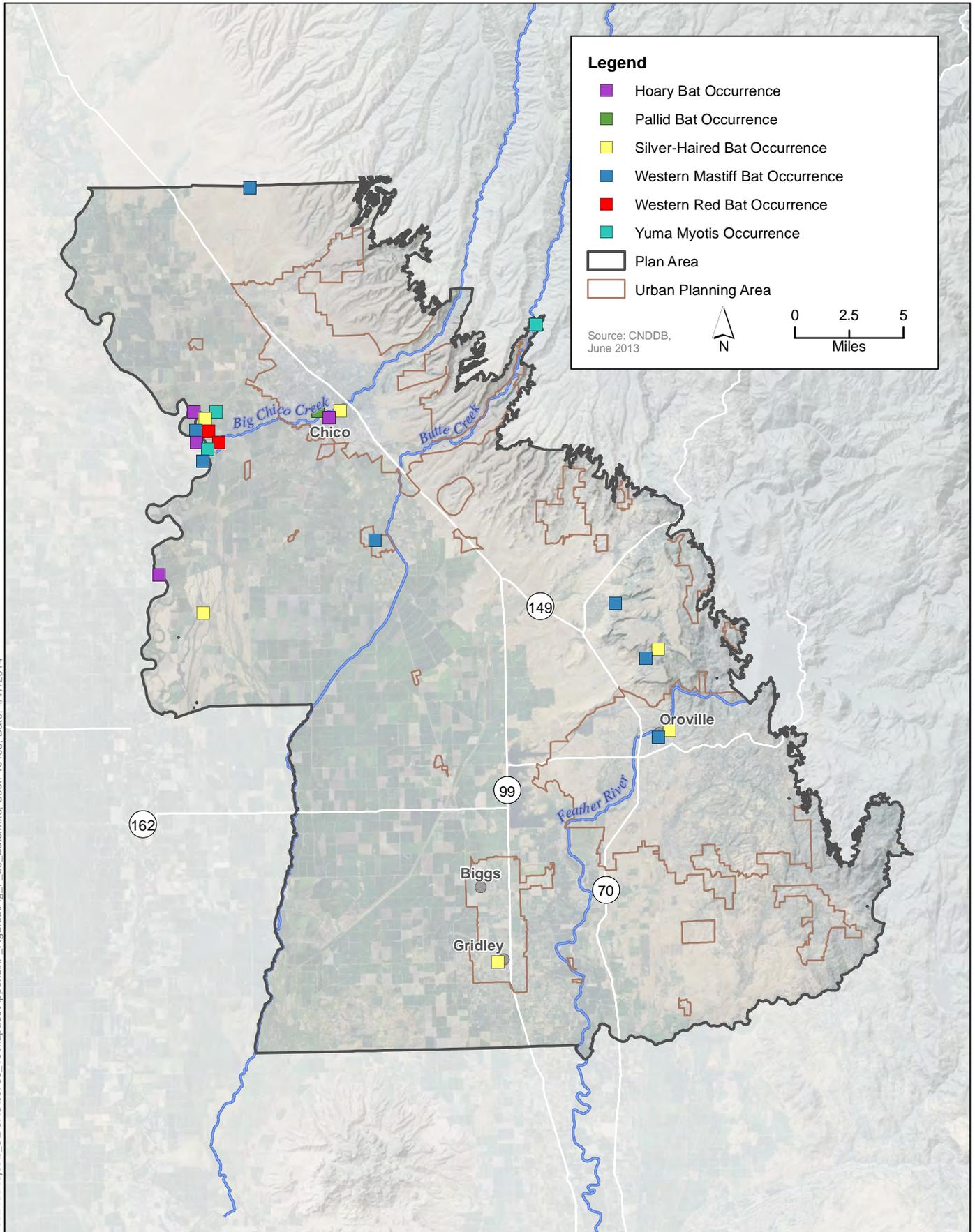


Figure F-29
Bat Species Occurrences in the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_30_American_Badger.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

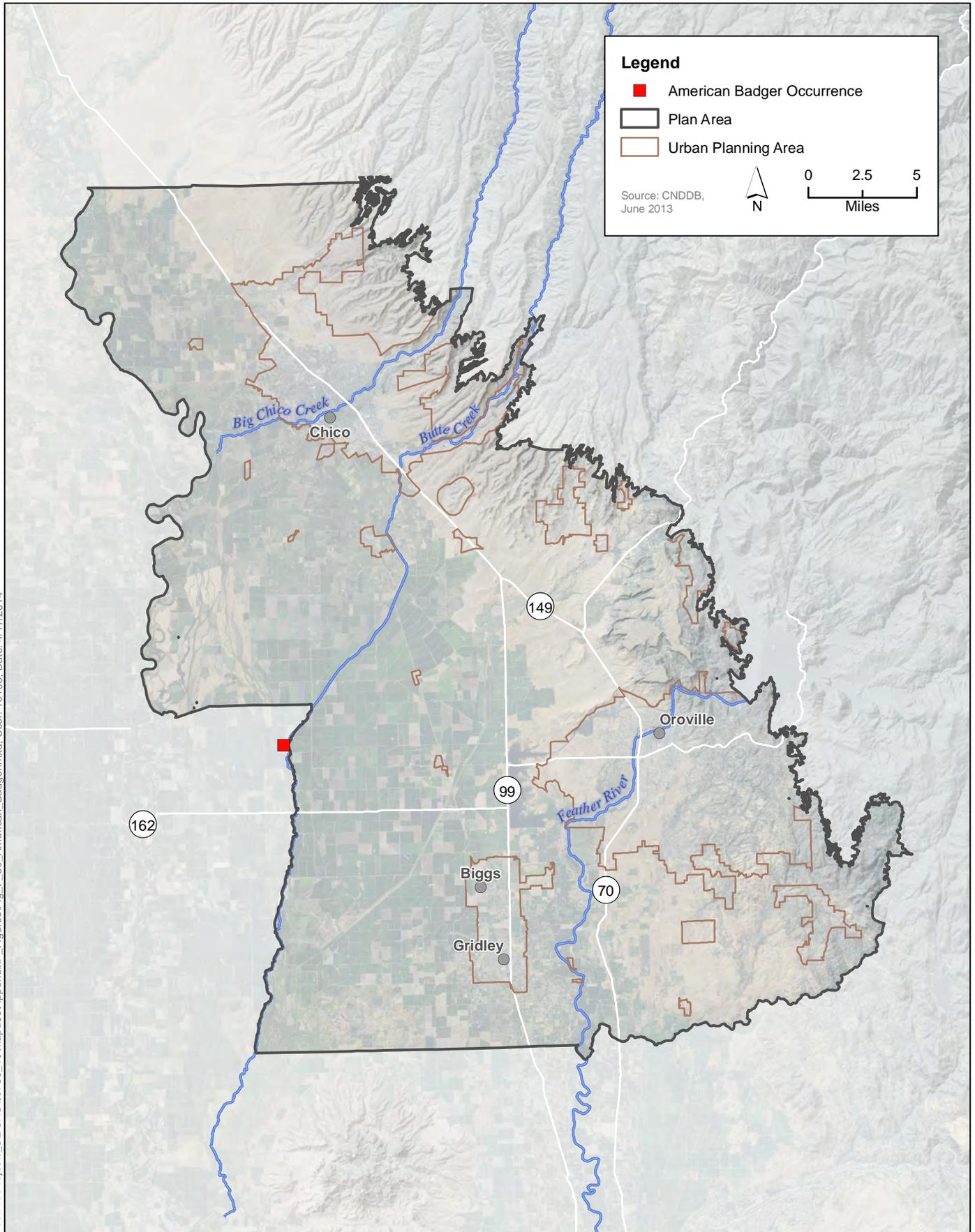


Figure F-30
American Badger Occurrence near the Plan Area

Path: K:\Projects_3\BCAG\00736_10\mapdoc\AppendixF_Figures\Fig. F_31_black_tailed_deer.mxd; User: 19105; Date: 4/17/2014

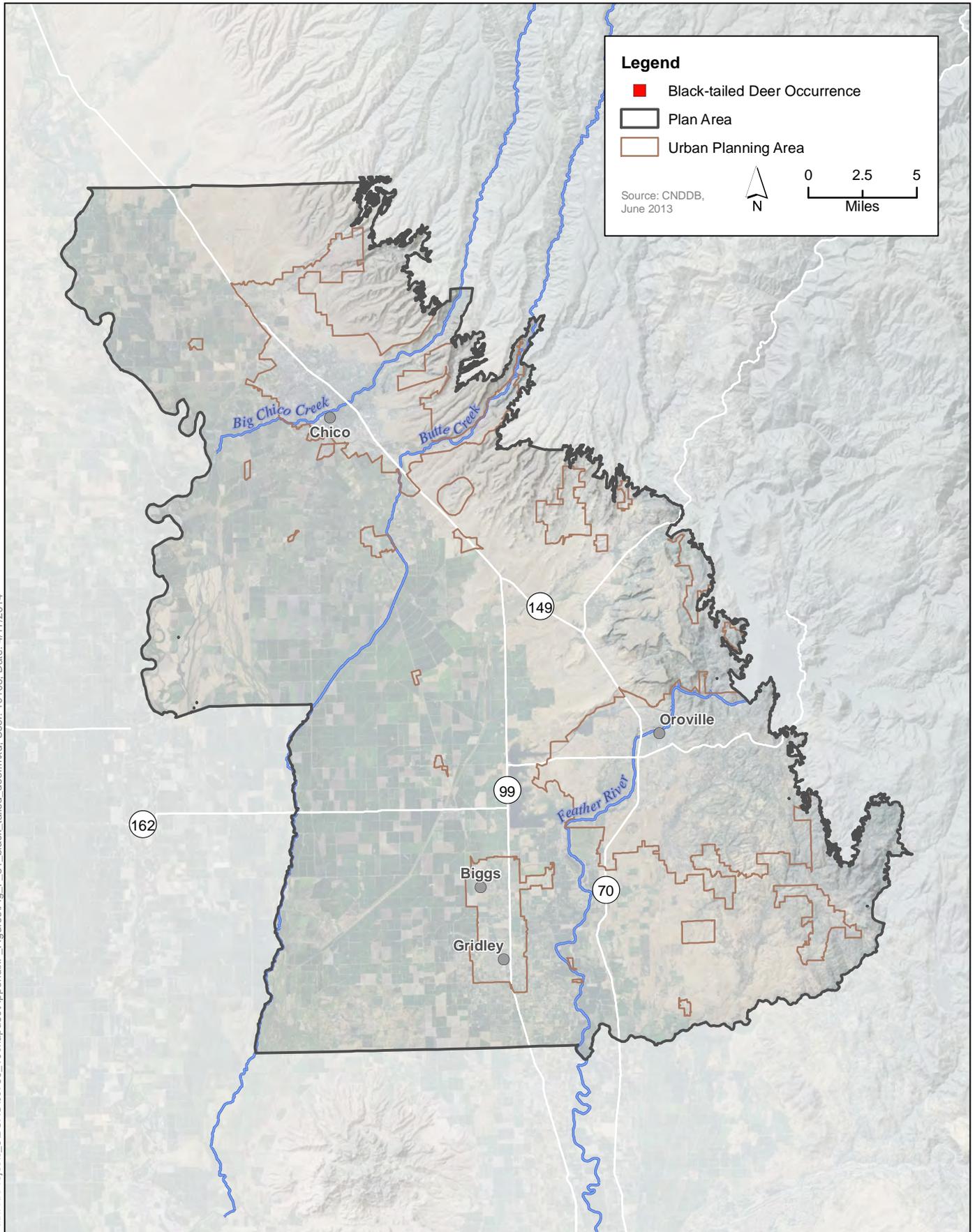


Figure F-31
Black-tailed Deer Occurrences in the Plan Area

