



JACOBSZOOM & ASSOCIATES, INC.

natural resource planning & management

August 31, 2020

Victor Fernandez
Assistant Planner
Lake County Community Development Department

Re: 13306 Elk Mountain Rd. Upper Lake, CA 95485 (APN 002-023-90)

Dear Victor:

A biological site assessment was conducted on April 22, 2019 for a proposed cannabis cultivation site at 13306 Elk Mountain Rd. Upper Lake, CA 95485 (APN 002-023-90). The parcel has the potential to provide habitat to some special status species (ten animal and four plant species); however, no rare, threatened, endangered, or species of special concern (plants and animals) were observed during the assessment. The biological assessment was conducted during the blooming period for three bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), Brewer's milk-vetch (*Astragalus breweri*), and Mt. Diablo cottonweed (*Micropus amphibolus*) of the four special status species and were not observed.

The parcel has been heavily impacted by past agricultural practices dating back to 1951. The impacts include a planted orchard, irrigated field crops (barley and ryegrass) for livestock fodder and grazing and later an equestrian ranch. The potential for the fourth species (beaked tracyina (*Tracyina rostrata*) to be present within the parcel is relatively low due to the continual impact and disturbance from planting of livestock fodder and cattle grazing. The project does not propose any earthmoving activities and implements USDA's National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) no-till and green manure cover crop conservation farming techniques and will in turn promote biodiversity on the parcel.

Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), obscure bumble bee (*Bombus caliginosus*), western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), Humboldt marten (*Martes caurina humboldtensis*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*) and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) have a high or moderate potential to occur within the parcel; however, no earthwork, tree or shrub removal is proposed for this project. The proposed project will not impact these species. No special status wildlife species were observed within the parcel during the biological site assessment.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*) have a moderate potential to be present within Middle Creek, however, no work is proposed within or adjacent to the watercourse. If the species is present, the proposed project will not impact this species.

No wildlife corridors will be significantly affected by the development of the project area for cannabis cultivation. The proposed project will not result in “take” or significantly impact any plant or animal species. No critical or sensitive habitat was observed within the project area.

The mapped watercourse running through the center of the Study Area (as mapped in the Biological Assessment) has been previously impacted by past agricultural practices and does not have a defined channel. The State Water Board does not recognize this watercourse as a protected watercourse. The proposed project will not create any further impact.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Alicia Ives Ringstad
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Jacobszoon & Associates, Inc.
(707) 485-5544 ext. 104

