Notes for Table J-2: Resources of Concern Related to Dredged Material Disposal

A significant public concern regarding the disposal of dredged material at aquatic sites is the disruption of fish habitat and fish avoidance of the areas near disposal sites. Some species are much more sensitive to habitat changes than others. Migrating threatened and endangered species, for example, are accorded a much higher level of protection. Some of the issues raised here are partly addressed in the alternatives analysis in the LTMS EIS/EIR that considers the frequency of disposal in relation to the potential risk for changing fish habitat beyond the disposal site.

For each species of concern, Table J-2 presents:

- A ranking of the species' status;
- Potential impacts of dredged material disposal on the species;
- Critical location where disposal may affect the species;
- Recommended actions to avoid adverse impacts; and
- Period during which recommended action is necessary.

The matrix presents the results of the informal consultation among the resource agencies. Many of the recommendations have been incorporated into the EIS/EIR through the development of the LTMS alternatives, the environmental assessment, or the companion policies, and are therefore no longer outstanding issues. In the notes accompanying the matrix, the LTMS agencies have outlined how those particular issues have been treated in the EIS/EIR.

Species Ranking

Species were ranked based on their status in the Estuary. Not all of the species listed in the matrix are federally or state listed as endangered or threatened, and therefore are not offered the same level of protection under the Endangered Species Act. Yet, resource agencies identified the need to address these specific species in the matrix due to potential impacts upon the species' recreational and commercial value and their ecological function.

The resource agencies prioritized the species based on the following:

Priority 1: Federal- or state-listed endangered or threatened species for which dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities proposed during the period of restricted activity in critical locations would require Section 7 Consultation and, possibly, California Endangered Species Act consultation (formal or informal);

Priority 2: Species proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, and CDFG Species of Special Concern for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose significant problems to existing or future populations levels;

Priority 3: Species for which status reviews are being conducted. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities are likely to pose significant problems to existing or future populations levels; and

Priority 4: Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose only minor problems to existing or future population levels.

Resource agencies will work with the dredging and disposal community to avoid impacts to species of concern based on their priority ranking. This allows for implementation of conservation measures, while still providing flexibility and efficiency in the matrix.

Potential Impact

Table J-2 identifies the potential impacts of dredged material disposal on the species of concern. Impacts include degradation of habitat for various life stages (larval, adult, spawning), interference with foraging habitat and food resources, and interference with feeding and respiration.

Some of the impacts listed in the matrix are not relevant in the context of the programmatic approach outlined in the Draft EIS/EIR. For instance, decreased in-Bay disposal under all three action alternatives will mitigate likely impacts on adult coho salmon.

Critical Location

The agencies have identified the critical locations where disposal activities are likely to disrupt the species of concern. The critical areas identified in Table J-2 are drawn from the entire LTMS Planning Area, but some areas are not suitable for aquatic disposal (e.g., within the Delta east of Sherman Island), so the recommended actions are not necessarily appropriate in those areas.

Recommended Action/Period during which Recommended Action Necessary

In the "Recommended Action" column, the resource agencies propose ways to avoid adverse impacts on the species of concern. These primarily involve restricting disposal in the critical area for the time outlined in the next column, "Period during which Recommended Actions Necessary."

The months blocked out are a designated period of time when aquatic disposal activity in that critical location may adversely affect the species. *Activities conducted outside the restricted period can proceed without contacting the resource agencies, thereby precluding the need to conduct a formal consultation with federal and state resource agencies*. If an activity is proposed within the restricted period for federal or state-listed threatened or endangered species, then the resource agencies must be contacted, and a determination will be made on a case-by-case basis as to the appropriate procedure under the Endangered Species Act. This may constitute the implementation of mitigation measures, or informal or formal consultation. A determination will be made as to whether the proposed activity, if conducted within the restricted period, would jeopardize the continued existence of the species. This action is highly recommended for species proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, and candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act.

TABLE J-2. Resources of Concern Associated with Dredged Material Disposal

The following concerns and recommendations were developed by the USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG during informal consultations regarding this EIS/EIR. These concerns were used to design several of the policies that mitigate the impacts associated with disposal, and in the overall environmental assessment. Explanations for how each concern is or is not addressed in this EIS/EIR are presented in the notes accompanying this chart.

Species (A)	*Ranking (B)*	*Potential Impacts*	*Critical Location*	*Recommended Action*	PERIOD DURING WHICH RECOMMENDED ACTION NECESSARY											
					Nov	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Winter-run Chinook Salmon Adults (1)	1	Degradation of habitat	Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, and Alcatraz disposal sites	Restrict disposal from Jan 1 - May 31			■	■	■	■	■					
Winter-run Chinook Salmon Juveniles (2)	1	Degradation of habitat, interference with foraging habitat and food resources	Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, and Alcatraz disposal sites	Restrict disposal from Jan 1 - May 31			■	■	■	■	■					
Winter-run Chinook Salmon Adults and Juveniles (3)	1	Degradation of habitat, interference with foraging habitat and food resources	East of Sherman Island along migratory corridors to and from the Sacramento River	Restrict disposal from Oct 1 - May 31	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					■
Coho Salmon Adults (4)	2	Adverse effects on adult life stage	San Francisco/San Pablo Bay	Restrict disposal from Dec 1 - Jan 31		■	■									
Longfin Smelt (3)	3	Habitat degradation to spawning grounds	Western Delta	Restrict disposal from Dec 1 - Feb 28		■	■	■								
Longfin Smelt (5)	3	Habitat degradation affecting larval stages Interference in ability to feed and respiration	Suisun Bay including Suisun Marsh from Collinsville west to Benicia Bridge	Restrict disposal from Jan 15- Mar 15			■	■	■							
Steelhead Trout (6)	3	Degradation of habitat and adverse effects on life stages	Napa and Petaluma Rivers, Sonoma Creek	Restrict disposal from Oct 15 - Jun 15	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■
Steelhead Trout (7)	3	Degradation of habitat, interference with foraging habitat and food resources	Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, and Alcatraz disposal sites	Restrict disposal from Jan 1 - May 31			■	■	■	■	■					
Recreational Marine Fisheries (7)	3	Degradation of habitat	Alcatraz and San Pablo Bay disposal sites	Limit disposal activities during peak sportfishing season May 1 - Oct 31							■	■	■	■	■	■

A. NOTES ON APPLICATIONS OF RESOURCE AGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Carquinez Strait is the critical location. Concerns at other sites are addressed through alternatives development and environmental analysis.
Recommended Action: Closure of SF-9 during migrations. See Mitigation Policies, Chapter 5.

(2) Carquinez Strait is critical location. Concerns at other sites are addressed through alternatives development and environmental analysis.
Recommended Action: Closure of SF-9 during migrations. See Mitigation Policies, Chapter 5.

(3) There is no planned aquatic disposal in this area; the Delta is outside the LTMS Planning Area except for the discussion on levee restoration.
Recommended Action: Disposal restrictions are not applicable in this area.

(4) The decreased in-Bay disposal levels assumed under all three LTMS alternatives will mitigate likely impacts in the critical areas of Alcatraz and San Pablo Bay disposal sites.
Recommended Action: Section 7 Consultation required during the period Dec 1 — Jan 31.

(5) Larvae typically present in high concentrations in high water years in main channels and flats of Suisun Bay. This species is considered abundant, and possible impacts are addressed in alternatives development and companion policies.
Recommended Action: Avoidance of disposal during recommended period when practicable.

(6) Carquinez Strait is the critical location. No other aquatic disposal is expected in key areas.
Recommended Action: Potential impacts addressed in alternatives development and companion policies.

(7) Possible impacts have been addressed in alternatives development and companion policies.
Recommended Action: Disposal restrictions are no longer applicable.

B. PRIORITY RANKING:

1. Federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species for which dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities proposed during the period of restricted activity in critical locations would require Section 7 Consultation and, possibly, California Endangered Species Act Consultation (formal or informal).

2. Species proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, and Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.

3. Species for which status reviews are being conducted. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal are likely to pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.

4. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value, or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose only minor problems to existing or future population levels.

Notes for Tables J-3 and J-4: Resources of Concern Related to Dredging

In addition to the potential environmental impacts on fish habitat associated with dredged material disposal, there are also concerns regarding the potential impacts of dredging on aquatic species. Using a format similar to Table J-2, Tables J-3 and J-4 present the resource agencies' analysis of the concerns for aquatic species related to dredging activities. Table J-3 relates dredging and possible impacts to threatened and endangered species, while Table J-4 addresses other, non-listed species of concern (species with a priority ranking of 3 or 4).

To facilitate regulatory certainty, the matrices clearly identify periods when dredging is *not* expected to pose any risks to specific species, and actions that should be taken during restricted periods. As with Table J-2, dredging may take place during any non-restricted period in the specified embayments without posing an unacceptable risk to fish resources. Within the restricted periods defined in Tables J-3 and J-4, dredgers must consult with the resource agencies. In cases where species of concern are not present and not expected to be present, normal dredging during these restricted periods may be approved on a case-by-case, limited basis. In cases where the species of concern are present, the use of special mitigation measures may also enable dredging during restricted periods without undue adverse effects.

Mitigation Measures

These matrices are designed to address the needs of the dredging/disposal community, thereby balancing economic and environmental concerns. They clearly state when projects may proceed without further resource agency consultation, and they allow for some flexibility within the period of the restricted activity time frame. This flexibility is identified as mitigation measures that, if applicable for a proposed project as determined by the resource agency, can allow the activity to proceed during a period of restricted activity without an adverse effect to a given species. Such mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to, monitoring the site during the proposed activity for the presence of the species, allowing dredging or disposal to be extended into the beginning of the restricted time period, use of silt curtains, using alternate equipment that reduces turbidity, and allowing limited dredging within a critical location.

J.4 PART 4: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED AND OTHER SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Introduction

The following section describes the species that could potentially be affected by implementation of the proposed policy and that are designated as threatened and endangered, pursuant to either the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act.

In general, the Planning Area supports a diverse array of plants and animals. The implementation of any of the proposed action alternatives is expected to change the landscape of the region through the creation of tidal wetlands.

Evaluation of the proposed action alternatives and regional biological resources indicate that changes to the landscape will affect the following types of species: (1) species associated with the Baylands of the Planning Area; (2) species associated with the levees of the Delta; and (3) species associated with the following habitats of the Planning Area: intertidal mudflats, rocky shores, seasonal wetlands, tidal marshes, and riparian habitat.

Previous studies have identified 44 species of animals and 32 species of plants that meet the criteria of special status (including federally listed species, federal listing candidate species, California Species of Special Concern, and species designated by the State of California as Fully Protected) and that occur within the Planning Area (San Francisco Estuary Project [SFEP] 1992c; CNDDB 1995; SFEP 1991b). Of these special status species, the following federally listed threatened and endangered animal species were determined to occur within the upland habitat restoration areas that could be affected by implementation of the proposed action alternatives in this EIS/EIR: Aleutian Canada goose, American peregrine falcon, California black rail, California brown

TABLE J-3. Concerns Related to Dredging and Special Status Species in San Francisco Bay Estuary (West of Sherman Island)

Species	Ranking (A)	Potential Impacts	Critical Location	Recommended Action (B)	Period During Which Recommended Action Necessary											
					Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Winter-run Chinook Salmon Adults	1	Interference with migration	Pinole Shoal, Suisun Bay channel	Consult with Resource Agencies when planning to dredge in these areas at these times			▒	▒	▒	▒	▒					
Winter-run Chinook Salmon Juveniles	1	Habitat loss or degradation, interference with foraging habitat and food resources	San Francisco Bay north of Oakland; San Francisco Bay Bridge upstream to Sherman Island including sloughs	Consult with Resource Agencies when planning to dredge in these areas at these times			▒	▒	▒	▒	▒					
Sacramento Splittail	2	Direct entrainment of juveniles	Suisun Bay including marsh from Collinsville west to Benicia Bridge	1. Consult with Resource Agencies when planning to dredge in these areas 2. Mitigate through use of clamshell dredges	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒
Sacramento Splittail	2	Direct entrainment of juveniles	Napa and Petaluma rivers and north San Pablo Bay	1. Consult with Resource Agencies when planning to dredge in these areas these times 2. Mitigate through use of clamshell dredges				▒	▒	▒	▒	▒	▒			
Coho Salmon Adults	2	Habitat degradation; adverse effects on adult life stage	San Francisco and San Pablo bays	Consult with Resource Agencies when planning to dredge in these areas at these times		▒	▒									

A. PRIORITY RANKING:

1. Federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species for which dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities proposed during the period of restricted activity in critical locations would require Section 7 Consultation and, possibly, California Endangered Species Act Consultation (formal or informal).
2. Species proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, and Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.
3. Species for which status reviews are being conducted. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal are likely to pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.
4. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value, or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose only minor problems to existing or future population levels.

B. Mitigation approaches will vary for specific species and areas. Project-specific mitigation plans will be examined in the consultation process.

TABLE J- 4. Concerns Related to Dredging and Specific Aquatic Resources in San Francisco Bay Estuary (West of Sherman Island)

(page 1 of 2)

Species	*Ranking (A)*	*Potential Impacts*	*Critical Location*	*Recommended Action (B)*	PERIOD DURING WHICH RECOMMENDED ACTION NECESSARY											
					Nov	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Longfin Smelt	3	Direct entrainment of juveniles; habitat degradation of spawning grounds	Suisun Bay including marsh from Collinsville west to Benicia Bridge	1. Avoid dredging during these times 2. Consultation with Resource Agencies to determine presence on site 3. Use of clamshell dredges during these times 4. Minimize off-site plume movement		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Longfin Smelt	3	Direct entrainment of juveniles	San Pablo Bay	1. Avoid dredging during these times 2. Consultation with Resource Agencies to determine presence on site 3. Use of clamshell dredges during these times				■	■	■	■	■	■			
Steelhead Trout	3	Habitat degradation and adverse effects on life stages	Napa and Petaluma rivers, Sonoma Creek	1. Avoid dredging Oct 15 - Jun 15 2. Consultation with Resource Agencies to determine presence on site	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■
Steelhead Trout	3	Interference with migration, foraging habitat, and food resources	Pinole Shoal, Suisun Bay channel	1. Avoid dredging during migration: Jan 1 - May 31 2. Consultation with Resource Agencies to determine presence on site			■	■	■	■	■					
Pacific Herring	3	Interference with spawning activity; reduced hatching success and larval survival	Historical spawning areas in central San Francisco and Richardson bays	1. Avoid dredging during spawning periods 2. Consult with CDFG to determine presence 3. Use of silt curtains to mitigate impacts		■	■	■								
Dungeness Crab	4	Direct entrainment of early juvenile stages	Shallow berthing areas and navigational channels in north San Francisco and San Pablo bays	1. Avoid use of suction dredging during specified period							■	■	■			

A. PRIORITY RANKING:

1. Federal or state-listed endangered or threatened species for which dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities proposed during the period of restricted activity in critical locations would require Section 7 Consultation and, possibly, California Endangered Species Act Consultation (formal or informal).
2. Species proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act, candidate species for listing under the California Endangered Species Act, and Department of Fish and Game Species of Special Concern for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.
3. Species for which status reviews are being conducted. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal are likely to pose significant problems to existing or future population levels.
4. Species or species groups with established recreational and/or commercial value, or ecological function for which impacts from dredging and/or aquatic disposal activities could pose only minor problems to existing or future population levels.

B. Mitigation approaches will vary for specific species and areas. Project-specific mitigation plans will be examined in the consultation process.

pelican, California clapper rail, California least tern, giant garter snake, salt marsh harvest mouse, Swainson's hawk, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and western snowy plover.

Threatened and Endangered Animals

The following discussion focuses on the regional populations of these species, including biology, abundance and seasonal occurrence in the Planning Area, and relevant planning efforts for the recovery of these species.

Aleutian Canada Goose. The Aleutian Canada goose nests on the Aleutian Islands and winters primarily in the Central Valley. Key wintering and staging areas have been identified in California, including Castle Rock in Del Norte County, Butte Sink Wildlife Refuge in the Sacramento Valley, the Faith and Maples ranches in Stanislaus County, and the Los Banos area of Merced County. These birds have been sighted at several locations within the Planning Area, including the Delta and South Bay (SFEP 1992c; Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. 1995). With the exception of a few birds that winter on Grizzly Island in Suisun Marsh and a few local reservoirs in the East Bay, most observations in the Planning Area are usually flocks moving through the area.

American Peregrine Falcon. The peregrine falcon is a wide ranging bird that can occur throughout western North America. Peregrine falcons are not known to nest within the Planning Area, but this area is considered a major wintering area for raptors including the peregrine falcon. The wetland habitats of the Planning Area support large flocks of waterfowl and shorebirds in the region that provide an abundant prey base.

California Black Rail. The California black rail is a year-long resident of the tidal marshes of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These rails are highly secretive and generally located only by call. Recent surveys have located populations in Suisun Marsh, on instream islands within the Delta, and at various sites surrounding San Pablo Bay (Napa River, Petaluma River, and Novato Creek) (CNDDB 1995). Within these marshes, the high marsh habitat is critical for nesting habitat and high tide refugia. Without such refugia, black rails are taken during high tides by several predatory species, including northern harriers, black-shouldered kites, egrets, herons, red fox, and feral cats (SFEP 1992c). Within the south and central portions of the Bay, black rail breeding and nesting has not been confirmed, however, black rails have been located in these areas during the winter when this species is more widely distributed. The population trend for California black rail is one of decline, due to losses of habitat (SFEP 1992c).

California Brown Pelican. The California brown pelican nests on the Channel Islands and disperses to coastal locations throughout the Pacific Coast during the non-breeding season. These post-breeding season roost sites generally occur in association with breakwaters, jetties, and/or estuarine environments. The San Francisco Bay has generally been recognized as an important post-breeding roosting area for brown pelicans, however no specific sites have been identified of critical importance in the California brown pelican recovery plan. The trend for populations nesting in California is one of decline (USFWS 1983).

California Clapper Rail. The California clapper rail is a year-round resident of tidal salt marshes surrounding the San Francisco Bay. Within the Planning Area, clapper rails have been observed in the South Bay, Suisun Marsh, and from San Pablo Bay along the Petaluma and Napa rivers. These populations are generally limited by reductions in habitat and predation due to the introduced red fox (USFWS 1984). The population trend for California clapper rails was declining until 1992. Based on the results of less than 2 years of red fox control, the trend can presently be descried as stable/declining (Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. 1995).

California Least Tern. The California least tern is a migratory shorebird that nests in a widely discontinuous range extending from San Francisco Bay southward through San Diego to Baja California. The least tern usually nests in opens expanses of light colored substrate, including sand, dirt, pavement, and/or dried mud in close proximity to foraging areas with an abundance of small fish. Within the Planning Area, birds arrive in April and May to begin courtship and defend nest sites. Nesting colonies are known from Alameda Island, Bay Farm Island, Coyote Hills, Bair Island, Alameda Naval Air Station, Oakland Airport, Alvarado Salt Ponds, Redwood City Salt Ponds, Leslie salt ponds and the PG&E Plant in Pittsburg (USFWS 1980; CNDDB 1995;

Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. 1995). Some of these nest sites are historical sites that are not currently used. In addition, important post breeding sites have been identified for the California least tern in the Planning Area. These sites including Charleston Slough, Moffet Field, Braumberg salt ponds, and Leslie salt ponds in Santa Clara County (CNDDB 1995). The recovery plan for this species focuses on protection of existing nesting sites and foraging habitat, restoration of former nesting habitat and degraded coastal wetlands, creation of nesting islands, and protection of nesting colonies from excessive human disturbance and predation (USFWS 1980).

Giant Garter Snake. The giant garter snake is a permanent resident of freshwater marsh and aquatic habitats. Within the Planning Area, populations are known from the western and eastern portions of the Delta and the northern portions of Suisun Marsh. These snakes are active from March to October and forage for small fish, tadpoles, frogs, and other prey in marshes and open water habitat. From October to March, giant garter snakes hibernate in abandoned rodent burrows above the high-water line. Interim guidelines for impact assessment and mitigation focus on maintenance of existing populations and habitat creation with concerns for habitat disturbance, buffers, hibernaculas, and water quality.

Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. The salt marsh harvest mouse is endemic to the salt and brackish marsh habitat of the San Francisco Bay Area. This species occurs in the middle and upper parts of tidal marshes and in dense stands of pickleweed in diked wetlands. Within the Planning Area, the salt marsh harvest mouse frequently occurs in areas of suitable habitat. Trapping programs have located populations in all regions of the San Francisco Bay Area (CNDDB 1995). Stable populations are generally associated with high-tide refugia, including upland areas with adequate escape cover. The recovery plan for this species includes protection of existing habitat and expansion of habitat by tidal marsh creation (USFWS 1984).

Swainson's Hawk. The Swainson's hawk is a migratory species that nests in the Central Valley in association with riparian habitats and cropland areas that provide foraging habitat during the nesting season. Currently the population is declining within the state (CDFG 1993b). These birds are not expected to be affected by the use of dredged material in Delta levee rehabilitation projects.

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. The Valley elderberry longhorn beetle occurs throughout the Central Valley endemic to valley oak woodlands and riparian habitats. Valley elderberry longhorn beetles are dependent on their foodplant, the elderberry. Within the range of the beetle, two species of elderberry are used by female beetles for egg laying and subsequently by developing larva. Within the Planning Area, the valley elderberry longhorn beetle are known to occur on elderberry shrubs on the levees of the Delta.

Western Snowy Plover. Breeding populations of the western snowy plover have been designated as "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act. These coastal populations are distinct from the inland populations that may also winter along the Pacific Coast. Coastal populations of snowy plovers nest in loose colonies from March through September in flat open expanses with sandy or saline substrates. Nesting has also been observed on salt pans, coastal dredged material disposal sites, dry salt ponds, and salt pond levees (USFWS 1993). The western snowy plover has nested sporadically at scattered locations throughout the Planning Area. Nest sites have been reported from the north and south portions of the Bay (Wetlands Research Associates, Inc. 1995; CNDDB 1995). No recovery plan has been prepared for this species.

Additional Special Status Animal Species

The following section describes the species that occur within the Planning Area that are not considered threatened or endangered species, but are listed as federal candidates for listing, California Species of Special Concern, or California Fully Protected. These species may be "locally designated" in several of the local jurisdictions within the Planning Area. With the exception of some wide ranging species, these species are discussed in the context of local habitats to illustrate the ecological relationship between habitat and species. This discussion is based on the habitats previously described in Chapter 4 of this EIS/EIR. Given the number of special status species, complexity of habitat relations, and relatively low level of sensitivity, this approach is most appropriate to evaluate the effects of policy implementation on species considered "locally designated."