

3.11.6 Non-Listed Sensitive Species Associated with Aquatic, Wetland, and Riparian Habitats

Sensitive species are not listed, proposed, or candidates, but are considered “species of special concern” by one or several government natural resource agencies and private conservation organizations, including Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, California Forestry and Fire Protection, Partners in Flight, Western Bat Working Group, and California Native Plant Society. Federal species of special concern is a term used for former Category 2 candidate species. Table 5.F in Appendix E of this EIS/EIR provides a list of non-listed sensitive species and their associated aquatic habitats within the WT Corridor study area.

3.11.7 Upland Habitat

The upland habitats within the WT Corridor are nonnative grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and oak woodland plant communities. Croplands, orchards, dairy, feedyards, and developed areas are also found throughout the corridor.

3.11.7.1 Nonnative Grassland

Nonnative grasslands (RCIP vegetation code 422) consist of a dense to sparse cover of annual grasses with flowering culms 0.2-0.5 m high. This community is often associated with numerous species of native annual wildflowers, especially in years of favorable rainfall. Germination occurs with the onset of the late fall rains; growth, flowering, and seed-set occur from winter through spring. With a few exceptions, the plants are dead through the summer-fall dry season, persisting as seeds (Holland, 1986).

Nonnative grassland species within the corridor include red brome, common ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*), Mediterranean schismus, slender wild oats, and short-podded mustard.

3.11.7.2 Riversidean Sage Scrub

Coastal sage scrub is not a homogenous vegetation type, but rather a group of shrubland vegetation types found under similar climatic conditions and exhibiting similar growth patterns. Coastal sage scrub extends latitudinally from the San Francisco Bay region southward to El Rosario in Baja California. Several associations of coastal sage scrub have been recognized based upon its vegetative composition throughout its geographic range. Four floristic associations within coastal sage scrub are recognized: Diablan, Venturan, Riversidean, and Diegan. These associations occur in reasonably distinct geographical areas along the coastline, with the Riversidean association occupying a more-inland location characterized by higher