



October 10, 2024

Dennis Zabaglo
Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
PO Box 5310
Stateline, NV 89449
dzabaglo@trpa.gov

Trevor Miller
Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
trevor.miller@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: EIR/EIS Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting for Control Methods Test Project – Fall 2024 Routine Monitoring Ecotonal Report for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT) Project

Dear Mr. Zabaglo and Mr. Miller,

The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association (TKPOA) herewith submits the subject Fall 2024 Ecotonal Report (Report). This Report satisfies the requirements of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) No. R6T-2022-0005 for Bio-1 and Bio-2 Field Reconnaissance and Routine Monitoring. Under this MMRP mitigation provision, TKPOA was required to conduct a field reconnaissance of potentially affected terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic (benthic and littoral zones) habitats and species. They were also required to routinely monitor the areas within Lake Tallac and adjacent to herbicide treatment areas throughout the duration of the Project. The enclosed report documents TKPOA's compliance with those provisions of the MMRP.

Sierra Ecosystem Associates (SEA), consultant to TKPOA, performed a field survey on September 11, 2024 of all CMT Project sites in the Tahoe Keys. Site photos were taken documenting the typical site conditions. No sensitive species were found, and treatment activities have unlikely impacted sensitive species. While performing the site visit, SEA staff also surveyed for active nest sites of migratory birds. No active nests, or nests from previous years, were observed.

Mr. Zabaglo and Mr. Miller

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After evaluating data collected from the site visit and performing current desktop database and habitat evaluations, it was determined that the CMT Project has not likely adversely impacted any special status species, their habitats, or migratory birds.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments regarding the attached Report.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Hallie Kirkingburg

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Hallie Kirkingburg
General Manager
Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association
356 Ala Wai Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe CA 96150
(530) 543-9533
hkirkingburg@tahoekeyspoa.org
www.tkpoa.com

Attachment:

- Fall 2024 Routine Monitoring Ecotonal Report for the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test

Cc (electronically with Attachment):

- Tiffany Barulich, M.S., WRCE, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Kimberly Caringer, Deputy Director & Chief Partnership Officer, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Emily Justice, Aquatic Invasive Species Projects Coordinator, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Kristine Lebo, Water Quality Manager and AIS Coordinator, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association

FALL 2024 ROUTINE MONITORING ECOTONAL REPORT FOR THE TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS AQUATIC WEED CONTROL METHODS TEST

PREPARED PURSUANT TO
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LAHONTAN REGION
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM NO. R6T-2022-0005



OCTOBER 10, 2024

FALL 2024 ROUTINE MONITORING ECOTONAL REPORT FOR THE TAHOE KEYS LAGOONS AQUATIC WEED CONTROL METHODS TEST

OCTOBER 10, 2024

Prepared for
Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association



Prepared by
Sierra Ecosystem Associates



Sierra Ecosystem
Associates

2311 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Ste. 8
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following sections address the mitigation measures for MM-BIO-1 field reconnaissance and monitoring and MM-BIO-2 routine monitoring of the areas adjacent to the Tahoe Keys Lagoons Aquatic Weed Control Methods Test (CMT or Project) treatment sites within the Tahoe Keys West Lagoon and Lake Tallac Lagoon, as required within Section 5.0 of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) published February 25, 2022. The MMRP was adopted by both the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency as part of these agencies' approvals of the Project.

MM-BIO-1: Prior to initiating the test program, TKPOA will conduct a pre-test field reconnaissance of potentially affected terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic (benthic and littoral zones), habitat and species. This will include the test sites and buffer zones appropriate to each potentially affected species. The occurrence of any sensitive or listed species and/or habitat will be recorded. If sensitive receptors are observed, an evaluation will be made as to the potential impacts. If direct or indirect impacts are possible, coordination will be initiated with the appropriate federal (USFWS) and state (CDFW) agency to determine further mitigation to avoid impacts. Examples of mitigation measures could include environmental tailboards prior to the start of work, the establishment of exclusionary zones (i.e., around active nests), and/or assigning biological field monitors with stop work authority if impacts to receptors are possible. Should work stop based on discovery of sensitive or listed species, TKPOA will consult with appropriate agencies to determine next steps prior to work restarting.

MM-BIO-2: Routine monitoring of the ecotonal areas within Lake Tallac outside and adjacent to the herbicide treatment areas will be performed during the duration of the Proposed Project.

This Fall 2024 Routine Monitoring Ecotonal Report (Report) describes the purpose of the evaluation, the studies conducted prior to and during the site visit, personnel conducting those studies, and maps showing the Project site and surrounding area.

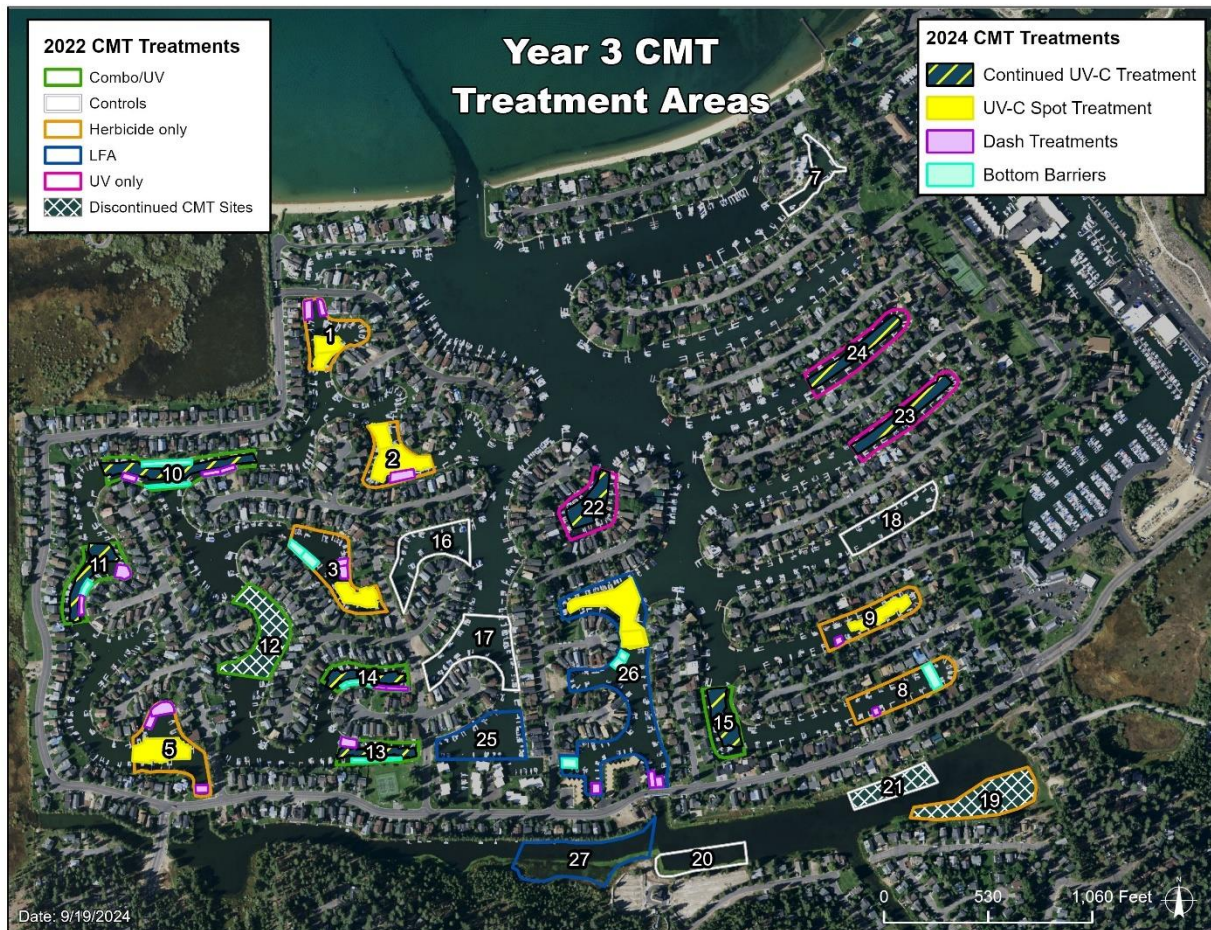
1.1 Project Description

The CMT Project is located in the Tahoe Keys in South Lake Tahoe, California. The Tahoe Keys is approximately 372 acres and includes homes, townhomes, marinas, and a commercial center. The West Lagoon (113.6 acres), East Lagoon (32.1 acres), and Lake Tallac Lagoon (26.1 acres) are three man-made water features in the Tahoe Keys. The lagoons are relatively shallow with an average depth of 10 to 12 feet, and a maximum depth of 20 to 30 feet.

Year 1 of the CMT Project tested standalone-treatments using herbicides, ultraviolet (UV-C) light, Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA), and combination treatments of herbicide and UV-C light.

These methods were followed with non-herbicide treatments in Year 2 (2023) and Year 3 (2024), which included spot treatments using bottom barriers, diver assisted suction harvesting, and UV-C treatments. The location of the spot treatments were based on the target plants present, size of infestation, and location of infestation. The same treatments implemented in Year 2 were implemented in Year 3 with some expansions to bottom barrier and UV-C test areas. Figure 1 shows the final areas for installation of bottom barriers, the areas that received treatments of diver assisted suction/hand pulling (DASH), UV-C, and Laminar Flow Aeration (LFA) in Year 3 of the Project.

Figure 1. Final Year 3 Map



1.2 Purpose of the Report

This report summarizes a fall 2024 desktop evaluation and field survey for sensitive biological resources within and adjacent to the Project sites. Biological resources that were evaluated include federally and state listed threatened and endangered species, as well as species that are candidates for listing, rare species which must be considered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and habitats protected by federal or state laws. These taxa

are collectively known as special status species. They are tracked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) through the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and include:

- Species officially listed as Threatened and/or Endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFS) or the CDFW;
- Species which are candidates for listing in the near future;
- Species that meet the criteria for listing, but not currently included on any list;
- Species considered to be of Special Concern by the State;
- Habitat that is declining in the State at an alarming rate or that is in limited distribution;
- Habitat that is used by listed species; and
- Habitat that is within the jurisdiction of one or more state and/or federal agencies, such as designated Critical Habitat.

For most plant and animal species, the CNDDDB tracks sightings, or “Occurrences”, which indicate the presence of an individual or a population. This report does not constitute a jurisdictional determination of a wetland delineation.

1.3 Survey Dates and Personnel

Sierra Ecosystem Associates (SEA) staff Senior Ecologist/GIS Specialist Jeremy Waites (J. Waites) and Environmental Scientist/Natural Resource Analyst Summer Abel (S. Abel) visited the site and completed a field survey of the area on September 11, 2024. The field survey focused on completing a habitat assessment for sensitive species in and around the Tahoe Keys including the Lake Tallac Lagoon.

Before the site visit, SEA staff completed a desktop evaluation of published resources with information regarding the site and the surrounding area. Photos were taken during the site visit that are included in Appendix A.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The development of this Report involved: 1) a desktop evaluation and 2) a field survey. The methodology for each is described below.

2.1 Desktop Evaluation

The desktop evaluation of the Project site consisted of the review of the current database maintained by CDFW to identify special-status species which could occur on the Project site (CNDDDB 2024). Other sources included the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps. In addition, S. Abel completed a search of database records in the CNDDDB

for reported occurrences of special status species. The CNDDDB search includes the Project site and a 5-mile buffer around the Project site. Table 1 summarizes the species identified in this focused query (CNDDDB 2024). Figure 2 displays the occurrences of these species as they are located near the CMT treatment sites.

Table 1. CNDDDB Species Identified

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing	California Listing	Rare Plant Rank*	CDFW Status*
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Delisted	Endangered		
bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	None	Threatened		
Lahontan cutthroat trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i>	Threatened	None		
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana sierrae</i>	Endangered	Threatened		Watchlist species
southern long-toed salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
Tahoe yellow cress	<i>Rorippa subumbellata</i>	None	Endangered	1B.1	
Tulare rockcress	<i>Boechera tularensis</i>	None	None	1B.3	
Austin's astragalus	<i>Astragalus austinae</i>	None	None	1B.3	
Davy's sedge	<i>Carex davyi</i>	None	None	1B.3	
Watershield	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	None	None	2B.3	
Galena Creek rockcress	<i>Arabis rigidissima var. demota</i>	None	None	1B.2	
willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	None	Endangered		
yellow-headed blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
western bumble bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	None	Candidate Endangered		
Lahontan lake tui chub	<i>Siphateles bicolor pectinifer</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
northern leopard frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
Lahontan mountain sucker	<i>Catostomus lahontan</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	<i>Aplodontia rufa californica</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	None	None		Watchlist species

osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	None	None		Watchlist species
Sierra marten	<i>Martes caurina sierrae</i>	None	None		
Great Basin rams-horn	<i>Helisoma newberryi</i>	None	None		
American goshawk	<i>Accipiter atricapillus</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
Long eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	None	None		Species of special concern
mountain whitefish	<i>Prosopium williamsoni</i>	None	None		Species of special concern

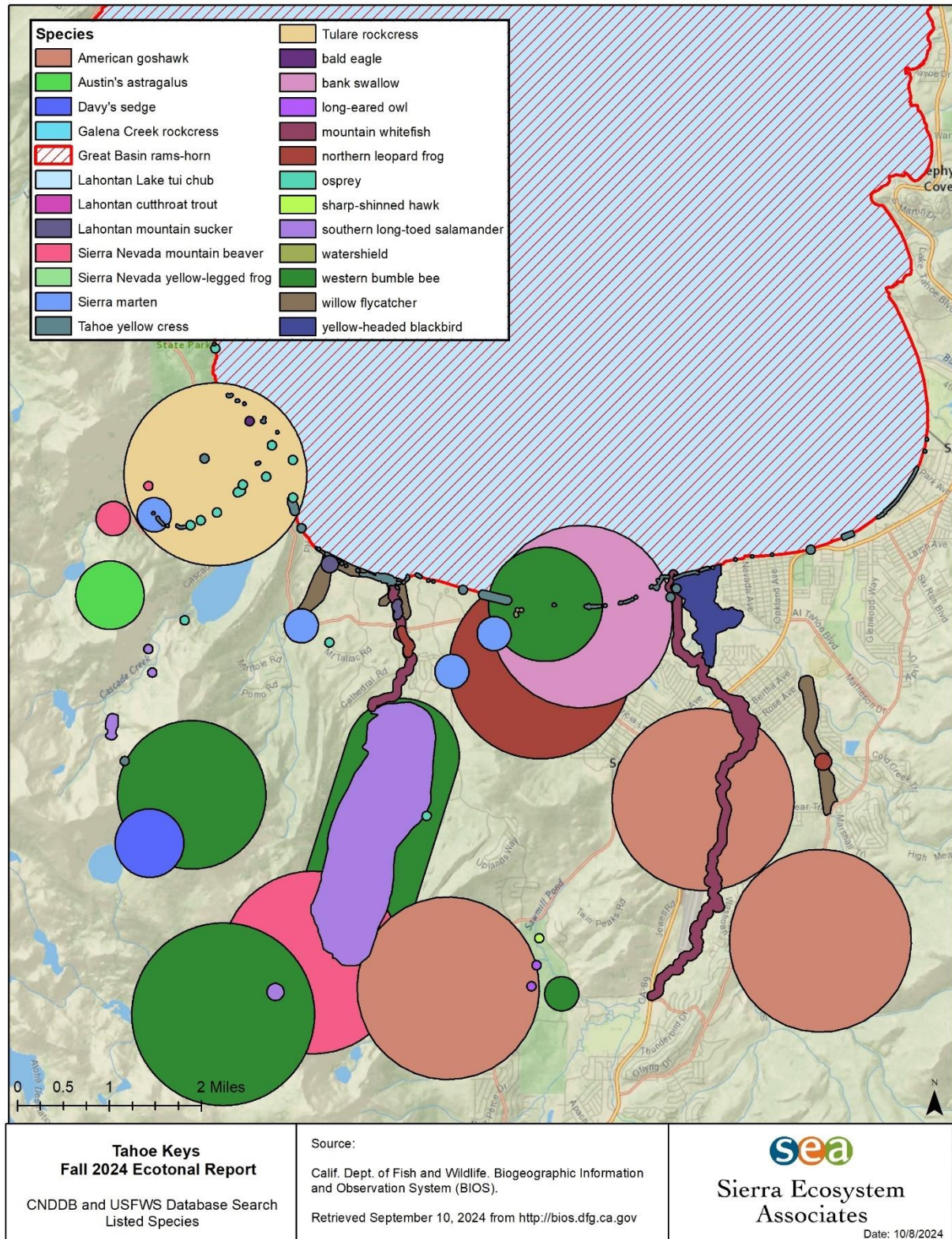
*Rare plant rank established by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS, 2023)

*Certain sensitive and watchlist species were added due to expanded parameters such as USFS and BLM status, and were excluded in previous reports due to relevance and lack of habitat potential

2.2 Field Survey

The field assessment included a reconnaissance of potentially affected terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic habitat and species. The field survey of the West Lagoon and Lake Tallac Lagoon was done by boat on September 11, 2024.

Figure 2. Listed and Sensitive Species



3.0 RESULTS BASED ON DESKTOP EVALUATION AND FIELD SURVEY

The following sections provide details on the wetland features, specific habitat characteristics at the sites, conditions which influence those habitats, and information gathered during the September 2024 site visit.

The local topography surrounding the project site is urban with residential housing throughout and surrounding the Tahoe Keys. In the West Lagoon, the many artificial coves are completely surrounded by residential structures with little to no wetland vegetation or habitat. Most of the water to land interface is comprised of a seawall, retaining walls, or riprap. The Lake Tallac Lagoon setting includes less dense residential and more wetland habitat, with more natural water to land interface.

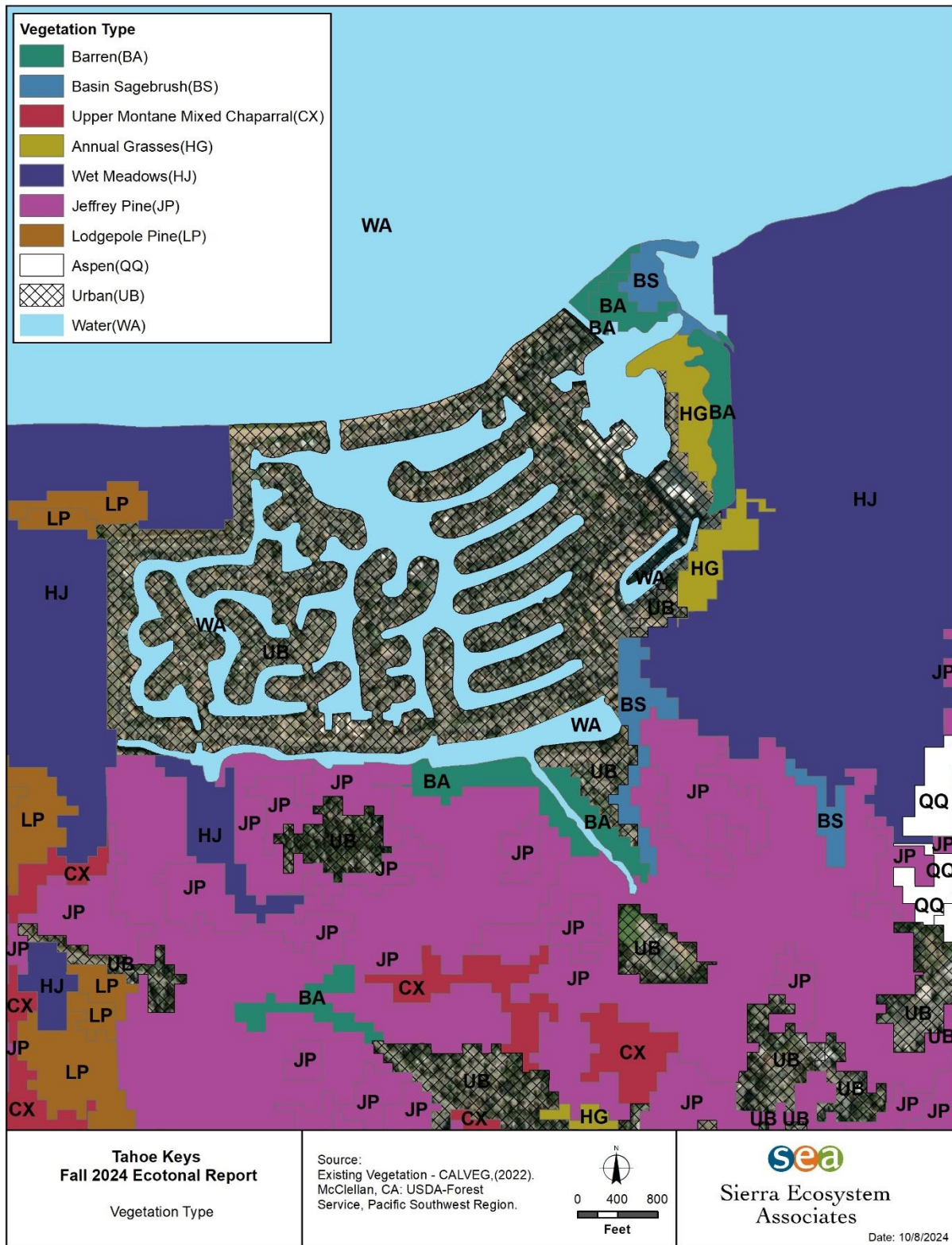
3.1 Wetland Features

Wetland habitat in the West Lagoon is minimal. The deepwater vegetation species are comprised of mostly coontail, Eurasian watermilfoil, and curlyleaf pondweed (Emergent wetland vegetation is almost nonexistent and shore zone areas are dominated by landscaping, seawalls, rip rap, and maintained sandy beaches). Lake Tallac Lagoon has a more natural wetland shore zone on the southern shore with the same deepwater aquatic plants, but with assorted wetland facultative and obligate plants such as *Juncus* ssp., *Salix* ssp., and *Carex* ssp. The shallow areas of Lake Tallac Lagoon are dominated by watershield on the surface with an expanding presence of water smartweed (*Persicaria amphibia*) along the southern shoreline east of 15th Street.

3.2 Vegetation Classification

The vegetation within the West Lagoon is mainly planted ornamental species with a mix of native lodgepole and Jeffrey pine. The surrounding area (to the east and west of the Keys development) is a mix of lodgepole pine, wet meadow, and marsh (Upper Truckee River Marsh to the east and Pope Marsh to the west). The vegetation types can be seen in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Vegetation Classification



3.3 Wildlife Sightings

Common Wildlife

Wildlife sightings were widespread throughout all the lagoons which included common species such as American coot, muskrat, mallard duck, Canadian geese, stellar jay, and king fisher. Based on observations from the 2023 CMT Project field crew forms, there were multiple sightings of deceased fish, mainly catfish and bluegill, throughout the Tahoe Keys. There was no trend or pattern in terms of the locations relative to CMT sites/treatment areas for the deceased fish.

North American Beaver

Figure 4 shows the new and existing evidence of north American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity from the September 11th field survey. Beaver markings on trees have also been noted mainly in the west end of Lake Tallac, which is an area of the Tahoe Keys that has minimal disturbance and fewer residential structures. The locations of the markings and beaver lodges are shown in Figure 4. They usually select deciduous trees such as willow, aspen, and birch over aquatic species, grasses, and agricultural crops, however selection and diet vary seasonally and depend on availability (Pejstrup 2023). Beavers are excellent ecological engineers that can create freshwater habitats by building dams from locally sourced wood (Orazi 2022). The North American beaver tends to migrate to areas in which its preferred food sources exist. Past beaver activity in Lake Tallac is common. Based on observations made during the annual macrophyte surveys in Lake Tallac starting in 2015, Beaver activity tailed off in the following 8 to 10 years with minimal activity. This cyclical migratory nature of beavers is evident here in Lake Tallac Lagoon.

Coyote

Coyotes frequent the Lagoons in the Tahoe Keys to hunt for waterfowl. Canadian geese have become normalized to human activity and have little flight response to threats. This makes them easier prey. During the September 11 survey a coyote was spotted hunting on a residential dock just to the north of Site 15.

Figure 4. Wildlife Sightings

4.0 DISCUSSION

The following section describes observations on CMT Project impacts and the specific habitat characteristics for potential threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) species that are present in the vicinity of the CMT treatment sites. TES species, which are listed in Table 1, are plants and animals that historically occur in the surrounding area and those with potential habitat in the Tahoe Keys.

4.1 Plants

Tahoe yellow cress (*Rorippa subumbellata*)

Tahoe yellow cress prefers sandy habitat that exists primarily on the southern shores of Lake Tahoe. Historic and current occurrences exist outside the Tahoe Keys lagoons on the shore of

Lake Tahoe. Habitat is negligible and very poor within the CMT treatment areas with minimal bare sandy beaches. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Galena Creek rockcress (*Arabis rigidissima* var. *demote*)

Galena Creek rockcress occurs in sandy to rocky soils derived from granitic or volcanic materials, primarily on moderate to steep northerly aspects. This plant is often found in drainages and moisture accumulating microsites, meadow edges or in dry openings in conifer forests from 5,900-10,200 feet (USFS 2023). Habitat is negligible to very poor within the treatment areas. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Davy's sedge (*Carex davyi*)

Davy's sedge is known to occur in moist meadows and rocky slopes in subalpine coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forests (Hauge 2012). Habitat is negligible to very poor within the treatment areas with little rocky slopes and no meadows. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Austin's astragalus (*Astragalus austiniae*)

Austin's astragalus is native to the Sierra Nevada in the vicinity of Lake Tahoe. It is found in the alpine climate of the high mountains, where it tolerates exposed areas (California Native Plant Society 2023). Habitat is poor within the treatment areas with limited bare exposed areas. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Tulare rockcress (*Boechera tularensis*)

Tulare rockcress is a species endemic to California. It grows on rocky slopes in subalpine habitats at elevations ranging from 7,874-10,498 feet (California Native Plant Society). Habitat is negligible within the treatment areas with limited rocky slopes. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

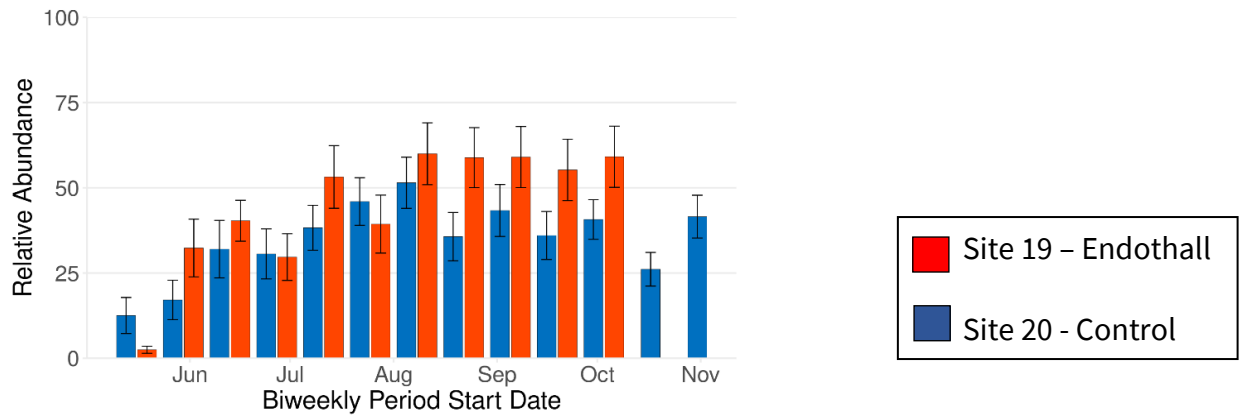
Watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*)

Watershield is an aquatic perennial herb with floating leaves that grow in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams. It is native to North America but found throughout the continent. Watershield can quickly take over shallow ponds and lakes and become dense enough to prohibit boat traffic. Watershield is prevalent in Lake Tallac dominating the shallow areas and edges of the lagoon. Watershield typically does not grow in water more than 5 feet deep, although under ideal conditions can grow in water as deep as 10 feet (CNDDDB 2024). At greater depths there is insufficient sunlight, and the winter buds fail to germinate (Adams 1969). Environmental Science Associates (ESA) has been collecting vegetation data annually in Lake Tallac and the West Lagoon since 2022 (ESA 2024). The below graphs show ESA's data comparing CMT Project Site 19 and Site 20. Site 19 was treated with the herbicide Endothall. Site 20 was a control site outside the turbidity curtain and received no treatment. The graphs below in Figure 5 show the relative abundance of watershield in samples collected biweekly during the growing season. Relative abundance for watershield maintained overall higher

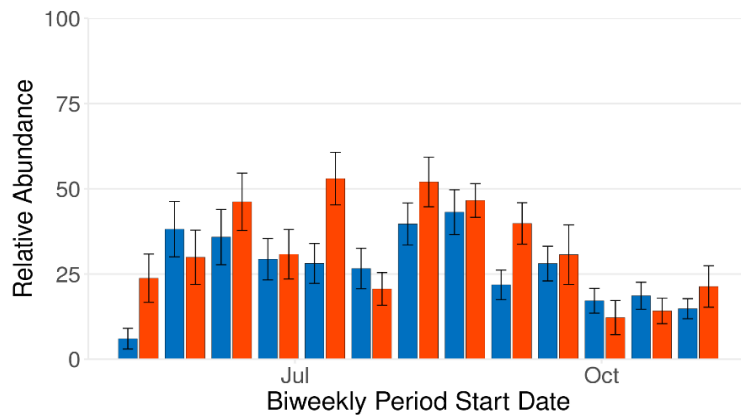
values in the treatment area as opposed to the control site. Overall abundance decreased in 2024. This is due to the large increase in water depth that started in 2023 and peaked in June 2024. Water depth in 2024 was 4.5 feet higher than in 2022 (USGS 2024) (TKPOA 2024). Treatment activities do not appear to have substantially impacted this species.

Figure 5. Watershield Abundance 2022 – 2024

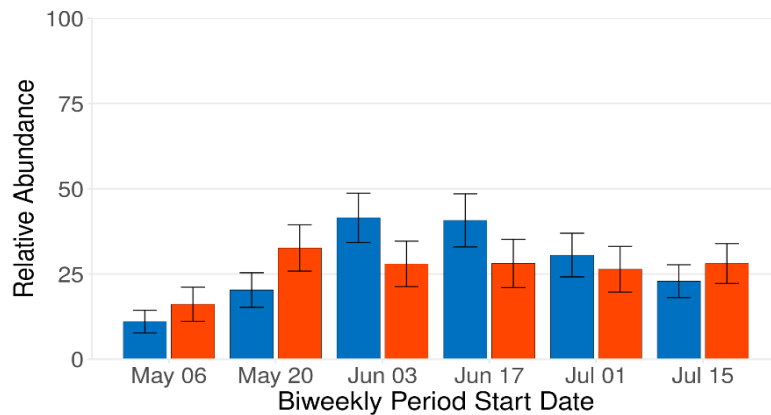
2022



2023



2024



4.2 Animals

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

The bald eagle is listed as endangered in California. Bald eagles forage in large bodies of water. They typically nest in large trees adjacent to a body of water. Foraging habitat in the Tahoe Keys lagoons is good. Nesting occurrences are common nearby with a reoccurring nest near Emerald Bay four miles to the west and one near the Upper Truckee River mouth at the marsh. The adjacent Jeffrey pine and lodgepole pine forests to the south may offer potential nesting sites, but none have been observed. CMT site-specific treatment activities have not likely adversely impacted this species given the substantial alternative foraging areas throughout the Tahoe Keys, adjacent Pope Marsh and Upper Truckee River Marsh, and Lake Tahoe.

Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*)

The bank swallow is a state-listed Threatened species. This colonial species nests along steep vertical banks, cliffs, or bluffs along perennial waters. The bank soil must be soft enough for burrowing (Zeiner, 1990). There are no treatment areas that provide suitable habitat for this species. Much of the Lake Tallac Lagoon shoreline area appears to be flat sandy soil with no eroded banks, which is not ideal for bank swallows. No adverse impacts have likely resulted to this species.

Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*)

Optimal stream habitat is characterized by clear, cold water with silt-free substrate and a 1:1 pool-riffle ratio. Streams should have a variety of habitats including areas with slow deep water, abundant instream cover (i.e., large woody debris, boulders, undercut banks), and relatively stable streamflow and temperature regimes. Streambanks should be well vegetated to provide cover, shade, and bank stabilization (Hickman and Raleigh 1982). This type of habitat is not present in the CMT Project area, and treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*)

The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) is federally listed as endangered and listed as threatened in California. This amphibian inhabits lakes, tarns, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and sunny riverbanks in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Waters that do not freeze to the bottom and that do not dry up are required. It prefers open shorelines that gently slope up to shallows of a few inches (CalHerps 2017). Habitat for this species is very poor in the CMT Project area. Invasive fish such as small mouth bass make this species unlikely to occur within the CMT treatment areas. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)

The Willow flycatcher is listed as Threatened in California. The willow flycatcher prefers dense riparian vegetation such as willows and cottonwoods along meadows and streams. Based on field observations, habitat is poor to non-existent. No areas of dense riparian vegetation exist

within the CMT Project treatment areas. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Osprey is on the CDFW species Watch List. Ospreys prefer a wide range of forest habitat near lakes, rivers, and coastal waters with adequate supplies of fish. They require large snags or other suitable nesting platforms within 15 miles of fishable water. Foraging habitat is good within the CMT Project treatment areas although nesting sites are poor. The adjacent Jeffrey pine and lodgepole pine forests to the south may offer potential nesting sites, but none have been observed. CMT treatment activities have not likely adversely impacted this species given the substantial alternative foraging areas throughout the Tahoe Keys, adjacent Pope Marsh and Upper Truckee River Marsh, and Lake Tahoe.

Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsonii*)

Mountain whitefish is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Mountain whitefish generally inhabits clear, cool waters of high elevation streams, rivers, and lakes. It is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Warm turbid waters within the Tahoe Keys lagoons offer poor habitat for mountain whitefish. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Yellow headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*)

Yellow headed blackbird is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Yellow headed blackbirds are generally found gathered in flocks in open fields, often with other blackbirds (Audubon 2023). These birds nest primarily in large wetlands but also in mountain meadows and along the edges of ponds and rivers (The National Wildlife Federation 2023). There are limited wetlands and meadows present near the Tahoe Keys, which offer poor habitat. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Western bumblebee (*Bombus occidentalis*)

Western bumblebee can be described as a generalist pollinator that can be found in a wide variety of habitats such as fallow fields, roadsides, gardens, and natural areas and forages on a variety of native and nonnative plants. High-quality summer foraging habitat includes meadows, prairies, or open fields with abundant flowers (Otto 2023). With limited meadows and open fields near the CMT treatment areas, habitat is poor for Western bumblebees. Treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Southern long toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*)

Southern long toed salamander is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Southern long toed salamanders occur in diverse habitats including coniferous forests, oak woodland, alpine, sagebrush, or marshland communities. They use springs, ponds, small lakes, slow moving streams, and marshland for breeding and larval development (USFS 2023). This type of habitat

is not present in the CMT Project area, and treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*)

The Northern leopard frog is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Northern leopard frogs breed in a variety of aquatic habitats that include slow-moving or still water along streams and rivers, wetlands, permanent or temporary pools and beaver ponds. Emergent vegetation such as sedges and rushes are important features for breeding and development. Adult northern leopard frogs also require stream, pond, lake, or river habitats for overwintering and summer feeding (USFWS 2023). Suitable habitat for the northern leopard frog is minimal, and CMT treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Lahontan mountain sucker (*Catostomus lahontan*)

Lahontan mountain sucker is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Lahontan mountain sucker can be found in cool mountain streams with the temperature ranging from 1-28 degrees Celsius. These streams tend to have a moderate gradient composed of boulders, sand, or rubble. Within a stream, mountain suckers can be found in pools with ample cover from logs, overhanging banks, and aquatic vegetation (University of California 2023). This type of habitat is not present in the CMT Project area, and treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*)

The Sierra Nevada Mountain beaver is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Sierra Nevada mountain beavers occur in dense riparian-deciduous and open, brushy stages of most forest types. Typical habitat in the Sierra Nevada is montane riparian with frequent open and intermediate-canopy coverage with a dense understory near water. Deep, friable soils are required for burrowing, along with a cool, moist microclimate (Beier, 1989). This type of habitat is not present in the CMT Project area, and treatment activities are not likely to cause impacts to this species.

Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

Sharp-shinned hawk is a CDFW Watchlist Species. Sharp-shinned hawks can be found in mixed or coniferous forests, open deciduous woodlands, thickets, and edges. They usually nest in groves of coniferous or deciduous trees with brush or clearings nearby (Audubon 2023). The adjacent Jeffrey pine and lodgepole forests to the south may offer potential nesting sites, but none have been observed. CMT Project treatment activities have unlikely adversely impacted this species.

Lahontan Lake tui chub (*Siphateles bicolor pectinifer*)

Lahontan Lake tui chub is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Lahontan Lake tui chubs are found in springs, ponds, lakes, large sluggish streams and in the shelter of small swift water streams. Typically, the tui chub habitat is characterized by slow water and abundant aquatic

vegetation (University of California 2023). This type of habitat is not present in the CMT Project area, and treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Sierra marten (*Martes cauringa sierrae*)

Sierra marten is common in higher parts of the Sierra Nevada mountains, from 8,000 – 10,000 feet. They are found in high elevation forested areas with talus rocky slopes that receive a lot of snow in the winter (University of California). This type of habitat is not present in the CMT Project areas, and CMT Project treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Great Basin rams-horn snail (*Helisoma newberryi*)

Great Basin rams-horn snail is an invertebrate found in large lakes and slow rivers, that like to burrow in soft mud. They are typically found in water deeper than 10 feet (Furnish, 2007). There is habitat for this species, but the habitat is poor. The species does not occur in areas with dense beds of macrophytes such as *Myriophyllum* and *Elodea*, nor in areas subject to eutrophication or periodic hypoxic episodes (Frest and Johannes 1995). CMT Project treatments have not likely impacted this species.

American goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*)

The American goshawk is a CDFW Species of special concern. Goshawks typically live in large tracts of coniferous forests and on forest edges. Foraging and potential nesting habitat does not exist within the CMT Project treatment areas. Goshawks prefer areas with little to no human activity. CMT Project treatment activities have not likely impacted this species.

Long eared owl (*Asio otus*)

The long eared owl is a CDFW species of special concern. They typically live near woodlands and conifer groves and prefer dense trees for nesting and roosting, and open country for hunting. They generally avoid unbroken forests. This habitat is not present in the CMT Project treatment areas. CMT Project treatment activities have not likely impacted species.

4.3 Summary

Overall habitat for special status species is very poor due to:

- Lack of native vegetation and dense aquatic invasive macrophytes
- Abundance of non-native fish
- Frequent and widespread human activities
- High water temperatures and turbidity of the lagoons
- Lack of suitable nesting areas for birds such as large trees, shrubs, and banks

No nesting raptors were observed during the field survey, although the lagoons are commonly used for foraging by osprey and other raptors. No nests from previous years were observed. Lake Tallac is home to periodic populations of beavers. Beaver activity (chewing on trees, dam building, etc.) does not appear to have substantially changed, although the lodge on the west

end of Tallac (Figure 4) has grown in size and shows evidence of recent construction. No occurrences of threatened, endangered, or other special status species were observed during the field survey.

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6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Name	Education	Role
Rick A. Lind	M.A. Geography (Water Resources) UC Davis	Principal-in-Charge, Document Review
Jeremy A. Waites	M.S. Coursework, Forestry, Auburn University, Alabama	Field Survey Lead, Author and Editor
	B.S. Forestry, Auburn University, Alabama	
Summer Abel	B.S. Environmental Science, U.C. Davis	Field Survey Support, Author and Editor, GIS Mapping
Rayann La France	B.S. Criminal Justice CSU Sacramento	Document formatting and proofing

Appendix A

Project Photos

Photo 1. CMT Project Control Site 21 on north shore of Lake Tallac



Photo 2. CMT Project Site 26 (laminar flow aeration site)



Photo 3. CMT Project Site 9 (2022 herbicide site)



Photo 4. CMT Project Site 13 (Combination site) showing windblown vegetation at the end of a lagoon finger



Photo 5. CMT Project Site 25 (laminar flow aeration site)



Photo 6. West end of Lake Tallac showing beaver lodge



Photo 7. Non-native bullfrog in Lake Tallac section west of 15th street



Photo 8. Fresh beaver chewing on lodgepole pine in Lake Tallac section west of 15th street

