

## **Proposed Changes to the BDCP Covered Species List**

*The following recommend changes to the BDCP covered species list were provided by USFWS and DFG to SAIC in fall 2009 based on review of SAIC's initial evaluation of 141 special-status species that occur or could occur in the Planning Area. Each species was evaluated for inclusion based on application of the following criteria:*

- *Listing potential,*
- *Occurrence in the Planning Area,*
- *Potential to be adversely affected by proposed BDCP actions, and*
- *Sufficiency of information to evaluate BDCP effects and develop effective conservation measures.*

### **Proposed Additions from USFWS/DFG**

#### **1. Western yellow-billed cuckoo (State listed endangered).**

Western yellow-billed cuckoo was observed during the breeding season within the Planning Area in 2009. This species is a riparian obligate and the proposed restoration of 5,000 acres of riparian habitat would benefit the species and increase likelihood for its future establishment in the Planning Area. Potential for take is likely small and limited to possible future riparian habitat maintenance actions. No additional conservation measures would be required to contribute to recovery of the species.

**SAIC concurs with this recommendation.**

**2. Least Bell's vireo (Federal and State listed endangered).** Least Bell's vireo is a riparian obligate whose range has been documented to be moving northward into its historical range, with a breeding population having established at the San Joaquin River NWR. The proposed restoration of 5,000 acres of riparian habitat would benefit the species and increase likelihood for its establishment in the Planning Area. Potential for take is likely small and limited to possible future riparian habitat maintenance actions. No additional conservation measures would be required to contribute to recovery of the species.

**SAIC concurs with this recommendation.**

#### **3. California linderiella (no status)**

California linderiella is a vernal pool species that USFWS believes could be listed over the term of BDCP.

**SAIC does not concur with this recommendation.** California linderiella is currently relatively common and widespread. Providing coverage to this species, however, would not require additional conservation measures beyond what is needed for conserving other covered vernal pool species. This species is being considered for coverage under the Solano County HCP.

**4. Dwarf downingia (CNPS List 2).** Dwarf downingia is a vernal pool species that USFWS believes could be listed over the term of BDCP.

**SAIC does not concur with this recommendation.** Dwarf downingia is currently relatively common and widespread. Providing coverage to this species, however, would not require additional conservation measures beyond what is needed for conserving other covered vernal pool species. This species is being considered for coverage under the Solano County HCP and South Sacramento HCP.

**5. Side-flowering skullcap (CNPS List 2).**

In California, this species is only known from Delta Meadows in Planning Area and from a farm field in Santa Clara.

**SAIC does not concur with this recommendation.** It is common throughout North America and SAIC suspects that it was introduced and has established as a weed.

**6. California least tern (Federal and State listed endangered; State Fully Protected).**

DFG has indicated that least terns are now nesting at the Montezuma Wetlands project in Suisun Marsh. Nesting substrate was inadvertently created as a result of placing disposed dredge material to raise elevations to create marsh; an action that could be contemplated by BDCP where feasible. Because this species is Fully Protected, direct take of individuals will be avoided through implementation of avoidance and minimization measures. Current BDCP tidal habitat restoration actions would benefit the species through creation of subtidal aquatic foraging habitat, but would not intentionally create nesting habitat.

**SAIC concurs with this recommendation.**

### **Proposed Deletions from USFWS/DFG**

**1. Lesser saltscale (CNPS List 1B).**

This species is highly unlikely to occur in the Planning Area. Recent expert review (Rob Preston) of previous single reported Planning Area occurrence indicates that it was not lesser saltscale, but likely brittlescale. Nearest confirmed populations are in Butte County and well south of the Delta in the San Joaquin Valley. The species also was not detected during EIR/EIS surveys in potential habitat in the vicinity of Clifton Court Forebay.

**SAIC concurs with this recommendation.**