FOSTER WHEELER ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION

April 22, 2001

Mr. Dan Buford
Chief, Delta and Coastal Bay Programs
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-2605
Sacramento, CA
95825-1846

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APR 2 2001

Dear Mr. Buford,

At the request of Jan Knight (Chief, Endangered Species Division), we are sending relevant materials for the proposed Russell City Energy Project, Alameda County, California. Enclosed, please find:

1. Correspondence with Mr. Don Henkins, dated March 22, 2001.
2. List of special status plant and animals potentially occurring in the Russell City Energy Project area.
3. List of plant and animal species observed in the Russell City Energy Project area.
4. Results of the CNDDB/Rare Find database search plotted on a topographic map.
5. Two aerial photographs delineating significant biological resources in the Russell City Energy Project area.

We are in the process of arranging a meeting to begin informal consultation on the project as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Brett D. Hartman
Ecologist

Cc: Jan Knight
Andrea Grenier
Marriana Isaacs
Dean Carrier

3947 Lennane Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95834-1973
Tel: 916-928-0202 Fax: 916-928-0594

FOSTER WHEELER ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION

March 22, 2001

Mr. Don Henkins
US Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way
Suite 2605
Sacramento, CA
95825

Dear Mr. Henkins,

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The proposed Russell City Energy Center is a 600 MW is a natural gas-fired combined-cycle baseload merchant power plant. It will have 2 combustion turbines and 1 steam turbine. The proposed site is 3636 Enterprise Avenue, in the City of Hayward, Alameda County (Figure 1). The site is currently occupied by the KFAX radio station transmission towers. The four 224 – foot high radio transmission towers will be relocated to the Old West Winton Landfill panhandle, located on the northern end of the City of Hayward sewage treatment ponds.

The habitat at the KFAX property is dominated by annual grassland, with patches of seasonal wetland dominated by saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). The proposed site is located northeast of the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD) Marsh (Figures 2 & 3), known habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse, the California least tern, and the California clapper rail. The issues discussed in our phone conversation were:

1 The project would fill adjacent upland habitat at the KFAX property. There is no designated critical habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse; however, adjacent upland habitat is sometimes utilized by this species as a refugium during flood and high tide events.

2. The potential creation of roosting habitat for raptors on the power plant stacks. Raptors are predatory species that could impact the salt marsh harvest mouse, the California least tern, and the California clapper rail.

3. Potential bird collision and mortality associated with the relocated radio transmission towers.

4. The potential growth inducing effect of the proposed power plant.

I am currently in the process of gathering data to evaluate these issues, and will be providing this information to facilitate informal consultation. If you have any additional data needs, or if additional issues arise, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Brett D. Hartman

Encl: Figures 1, 2 & 3

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Tabl 8.2.1. Special status plant species potentially occurring in the Russell City Energy Center project area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS [a]	Source [b]	Habitat in impact area?	Blooms
Astragalus tener var. *tener*	Alkali milk-vetch	SC/--/1B	1,2	Yes	Mar-May
Atriplex depressa	Brittlescale	SC/--/1B	1	No	May-Oct
Balsamohriza macrolepis var. *macrolepis*	Big-scale balsamroot	--/--/1B	2	No	Mar-June
Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. *palustris*	Point Reyes bird's-beak	SC/--/1B	1	Yes	Jun-Oct
Cordylanthus mollis ssp. *hispidus*	Hispid bird's beak	SC/R/1B	2	Marginal	Jul-Sep
Fritillaria liliacea	Fragrant fritillary	SC/--/1B	2	No	Feb-Apr
Helianthella castanea	Diablo rock rose	SC/--/1B	1	No	Apr-Jun
Hemizonia parryi ssp. *congdonii*	Congdon's tarplant	SC/--/1B	2	No	Jun-Nov
Horkelia cuneata ssp. *sericea*	Kellog's horkelia	SC/--/1B	2	No	Apr-Sept
Lasthenia conjugens	Contra Costa goldfields	E/--/1B	1,2	No	Mar-Jun
Lathyrus jepsonii	Delta tule pea	SC/--/1B	1	Marginal	May-Jun
Lilaeopsis masonii	Masons lilaeopsis	SC/R/1B	1	No	Apr-Oct
Plagiobothrys glaber	Hairless popcorn-flower	SC/--/1A	2	Yes	Apr-May
Suaeda californica	California seablite	PE/--/1B	1	Marginal	Jul-Oct

[a] **Status Categories:**

Federal status determined from a USFWS letter (___). State status determined from *Special Plants List* (June 1999), and/or *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California* (April 1999), prepared by DFG Natural Diversity Data Base. CNPS status determined from *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). Codes used in table are as follows:

E = Endangered; **T** = Threatened; **R** = California Rare; **PE** = Proposed Endangered

C = Candidate: Taxa for which the USFWS has sufficient biological formation to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened.

SC = USFWS Species of Concern: Taxa for which existing information may warrant listing, but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.

SSC = DFG "Species of Special Concern."

CNPS List: **1A** = Presumed Extinct in CA; **1B** = Rare or Endangered in CA and elsewhere; **2** = R/E in CA and more common elsewhere; **3** = Need more information; **4** = Plants of limited distribution.

-- = Species not state-listed.

[b] **Source:** 1 = From USFWS letter (____). 2 = From CNDDB/ RareFind.

Tabl 8.2-2. Special status wildlife species evaluated in the RCEC project areas.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State[a]	Habitat in impact area?	Source [b]
Mammals				
Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii	Pacific western big eared bat	SC/CSC	No	1
Eumops perotis californicus	Greater western mastiff-bat	SC/CSC	No	1
Myotis evotis	Long eared bat	SC/--	No	1
Myotis thysanodes	Fringed myotis bat	SC/--	No	1
Myotis volans	Long legged myotis bat	SC/--	No	1
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma myotis bat	SC/CSC	No	1
Neotoma fuscipes annectens	San Francisco dusky footed woodrat	SC/CSC	No	1
Reithrodontomys raviventris	Salt-marsh harvest mouse	E/E	Yes	1,2
Sorex vagrans halicoetes	Salt-marsh wandering shrew	SC/CSC	Yes	1,2
Birds				
Accipeter striatus (nesting)	Sharp-shinned hawk	--/SSC	No	2
Agelaius tricolor (nesting colony)	Tricolored blackbird	SC/CSC	Yes	1,2
Amphispiza belli belli	Bell's sage sparrow	SC/CSC	No	1
Aquila chrysaetos (nesting & wintering)	Golden Eagle	--/SSC	No	2
Ardea herodias (rookery)	Great blue heron	--/--	No	2
Asio flammeus (nesting)	Short-eared owl	--/SSC	No	2
Athene cunicularia hypugea (burrow sites)	Western burrowing owl	SC/CSC	Yes	1,2
Branta canadensis leucopareia	Aleutian Canada goose	T/--	No	1
Buteo regalis	Ferruginous hawk	SC/CSC	Winter foraging	1
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus (nesting)	Western snowy plover	T/CSC	No	1,2
Circus cyaneus (nesting)	Northern harrier	--/CSC	Yes	2
Elanus leucurus (nesting)	White-tailed kite	--/--	Yes	2
Falco peregrinus anatum	American peregrine falcon	--/E	Yes-foraging	1
Geothlypis trichas sinuosa	Saltmarsh common yellowthroat	SC/CSC	Marginal foraging	1,2
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle	T/E	No	1,2
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	SC/T	Marginal	2
Melospiza melodia pusillula	Alameda song sparrow	SC/CSC	Yes	1
Pelecanus occidentalis californica	California brown pelican	E/E	No	1
Phalacrocorax auritus	Double-crested cormorant	--/SSC	Yes	2
Rallus longirostris obsoletus	California clapper rail	E/E	Yes	1,2
Rynchops niger	Black Skimmer	--/SSC	Yes	2
Riparia riparia (nesting)	Bank swallow	--/T	No	2
Sterna antillarum browni (nesting colony)	California least tern	E/E	No	1,2
Reptiles				
Clemmys marmorata marmorata	Northwestern pond turtle	SC/CSC	Marginal	1
Clemmys marmorata pallida	Southwestern pond turtle	SC/CSC	Marginal	1

Tabl 8.2-2 (cont.)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State[a]	Habitat in impact area?	S urce [b]
Reptiles (cont.)				
Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus	Alameda whipsnake	T/T	No	1,2
Phrynosoma coronatum frontale	California horned lizard	SC/CSC	No	1
Amphibians				
Ambystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	C/CSC	No	1
Rana aurora draytonii	California red legged frog	T/CSC	No	1
Rana boylii	Foothill yellow legged frog	SC/CSC	No	1
Fish				
Hypomesus transpacificus	Delta smelt	T/T	No	1
Oncorhynchus kisutch	Coho salmon	T/E	No	1
Oncorhynchus mykiss *	Central California Valley steelhead **	T/E	No	1
Oncorhynchus mykiss *	Central California Coast steelhead	T/E	Yes	1
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	Winter run chinook salmon	E/E	No	1
Pogonichthys macrolepotus	Sacramento splittail	PT/CSC	No	1
Spirinchus thaleichthys	Longfin smelt	SC/CSC	No	1
Invertebrates				
Branchinecta lynchi	Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T/--	No	1
Danaus plexippus	Monarch butterfly	--/--	No	2
Hydrochara ricksecker	Ricksecker's scavenger beetle	SC/--	Marginal	1
Tryonia imitator	Mimic tryonia (California brackishwater snail)	SC/--	Marginal	2

[a] **Status Categories:**

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[b] **Source:** **1** = From USFWS letter. **2** = From CNDDB/ RareFind. **3** = Field observation.

* The *O. mykiss* taxon has an Ecological Significant Unit (ESU) designation, based on genetic isolation resulting from geographic separation.

Table 8.2-3. Plant species observed during 1999 botanical surveys for the RCEC project.

Family	Genus	Species/ subspecies/ variety	N/I	Common name	Power plant site	Old West Winton Landfill Panhandle	Natural Gas & Water Pipelines
DICOTS							
Apiaceae	*Foeniculum*	*vulgare*	I	Fennel		✔	
Asteraceae	*Conyza*	*canadensis*	I	Horseweed	✔		
	Baccharis	*pilularis*	N	Coyote brush	✔	✔	
	Cotula	*coronopifolia*	I	Brassbuttons	✔		
	Grindelia	*Stricta* var. *angustifolia*	N	Gumweed		✔	
	Sonchus	*oleraceus*	I	Common sow thistle	✔	✔	✔
Brassicaceae	*Brassica*	*nigra*	I	Black mustard	✔	✔	✔
Chenopodiaceae	*Chenopodium*	*album*	I	Lamb's quarters		✔	
	Salicornia	*virginica*	N	Pickleweed	✔		
Fabaceae	*Lathyrus*	*Sp.*	N	Wild pea	✔		
Frankeniaceae	*Frankenia*	*salina*	N	Alkali heath	✔		
Geraniaceae	*Geranium*	*molle*	I	Wild geranium	✔	✔	✔
	Erodium	*cicutarium*	I	Filaree	✔	✔	✔
Malvaceae	*Malva*	*nicaeensis*	I	Bull mallow	✔	✔	
Myrtaceae	*Eucalyptus*	*globulus*	I	Blue gum		✔	
Papaveraceae	*Eschscholzia*	*californica*	N	California poppy		✔	
Plantaginaceae	*Plantago*	*lanceolata*	I	English plantain	✔	✔	✔
Polygonaceae	*Rumex*	*crispus*	I	Curly dock	✔	✔	
Primulaceae	*Anagallis*	*arvensis*	I	Scarlet pimpernell		✔	
Solanaceae	*Nicotiana*	*glauca*	I	Tree tobacco		✔	
Urticaceae	*Urtica*	*urens*	I	Dwarf nettle		✔	
MONOCOTS							
Poaceae	*Avena*	*fatua*	I	Wild oat	✔	✔	✔
	Bromus	*diandrus*	I	Ripgut grass	✔	✔	
	Cortadaria	*Sp.*	I	Pampas grass		✔	
	Cynodon	*dactylon*	I	Bermuda grass		✔	✔
	Distichlis	*spicata*	N	Saltgrass	✔		
	Elymus	*sp.*		Wild-rye	✔		
	Hordeum	*murinum* ssp. *leporium*	I	--		✔	
	Lolium	*multiflorum*	I	Italian ryegrass	✔	✔	✔
	Vulpia	*microstachys*	N	Three-week fescue	✔	✔	
Juncaceae	*Scirpus*	*sp.*		Rush		✔	

Table 8.2-4. Wildlife species observed during 2001 wildlife surveys.

Common Name	Power plant site	Old West Winton landfill panhandle	Transmission line	Natural gas pipeline
Alameda song sparrow		✔		
Barn swallow		✔		
Black-necked stilt		✔		
Brewer's blackbird		✔		
Canada goose	✔	✔		
Common raven	✔	✔	✔	
Cormorant (in flight)		✔		
Forster's tern		✔		
Killdeer	✔			
Great egret				
Least sandpiper	✔			
Long-billed dowitcher		✔		
Mallard	✔	✔		
Mourning dove	✔			
Northern harrier	✔	✔		
Red-winged blackbird	✔	✔		
Rock dove			✔	
Ruddy duck		✔		
Turkey vulture		✔		
Western Gull	✔			
Western meadowlark		✔		

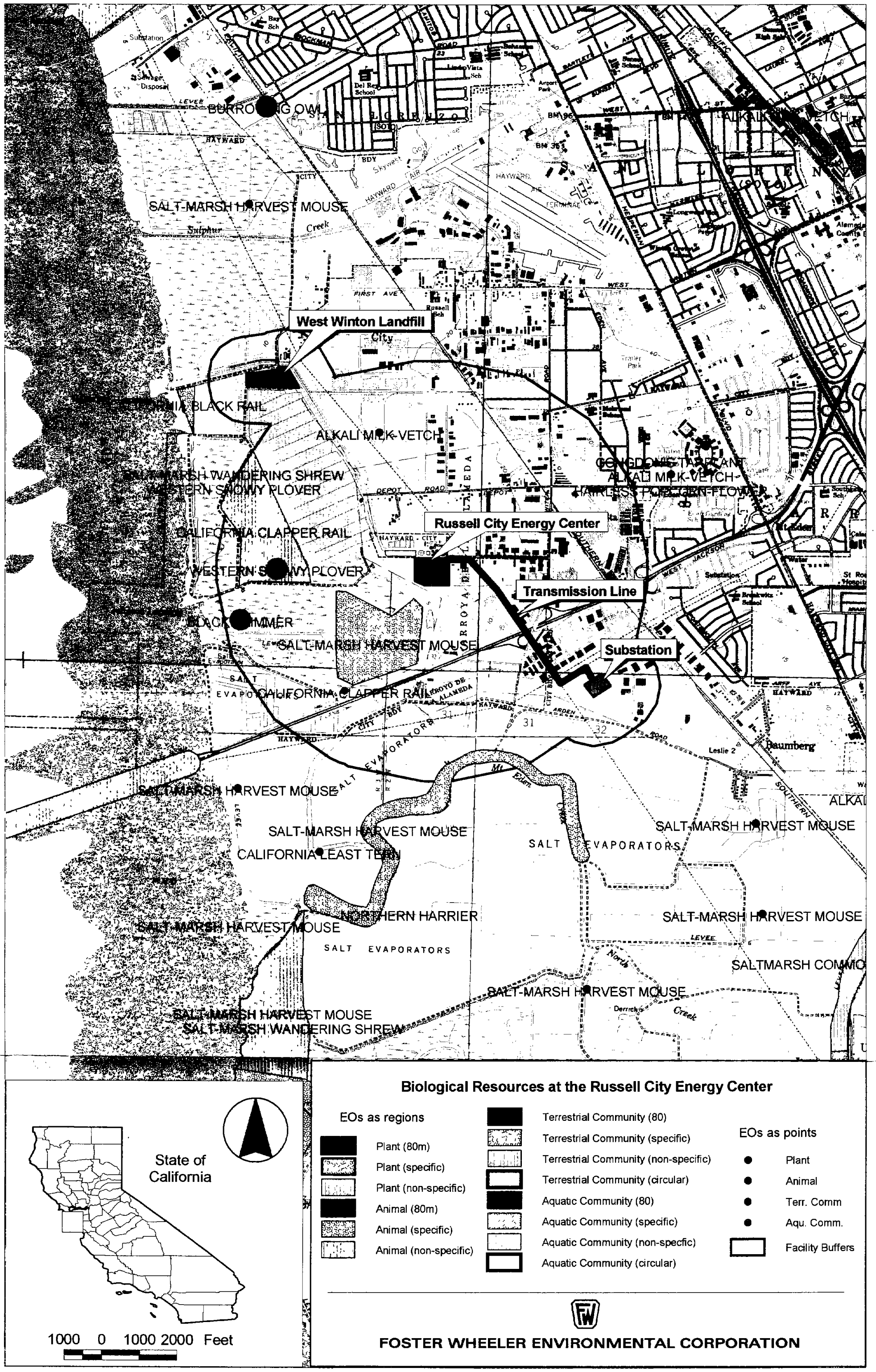
West Winton Landfill
Russell City Energy Center
Transmission Line
Substation
SALT-MARSH HARVEST MOUSE
CALIFORNIA BLACK RAIL
ALKALI MILK-VETCH
SALT-MARSH WANDERING SHREW
WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER
CONGDON'S TARPLANT
HAIRLESS POPPEN-FLOWER
CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL
BLACK HAWK
NORTHERN HARRIER
CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN
SALTMARSH COMMO
SALT EVAPORATORS
State of California
1000 0 1000 2000 Feet
Biological Resources at the Russell City Energy Center
EOs as regions
Plant (80m)
Plant (specific)
Plant (non-specific)
Animal (80m)
Animal (specific)
Animal (non-specific)
Terrestrial Community (80)
Terrestrial Community (specific)
Terrestrial Community (non-specific)
Terrestrial Community (circular)
Aquatic Community (80)
Aquatic Community (specific)
Aquatic Community (non-specfic)
Aquatic Community (circular)
EOs as points
Plant
Animal
Terr. Comm
Aqu. Comm.
Facility Buffers
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Figure 2: Regional Habitat for the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse in Relation to the Proposed Project Site

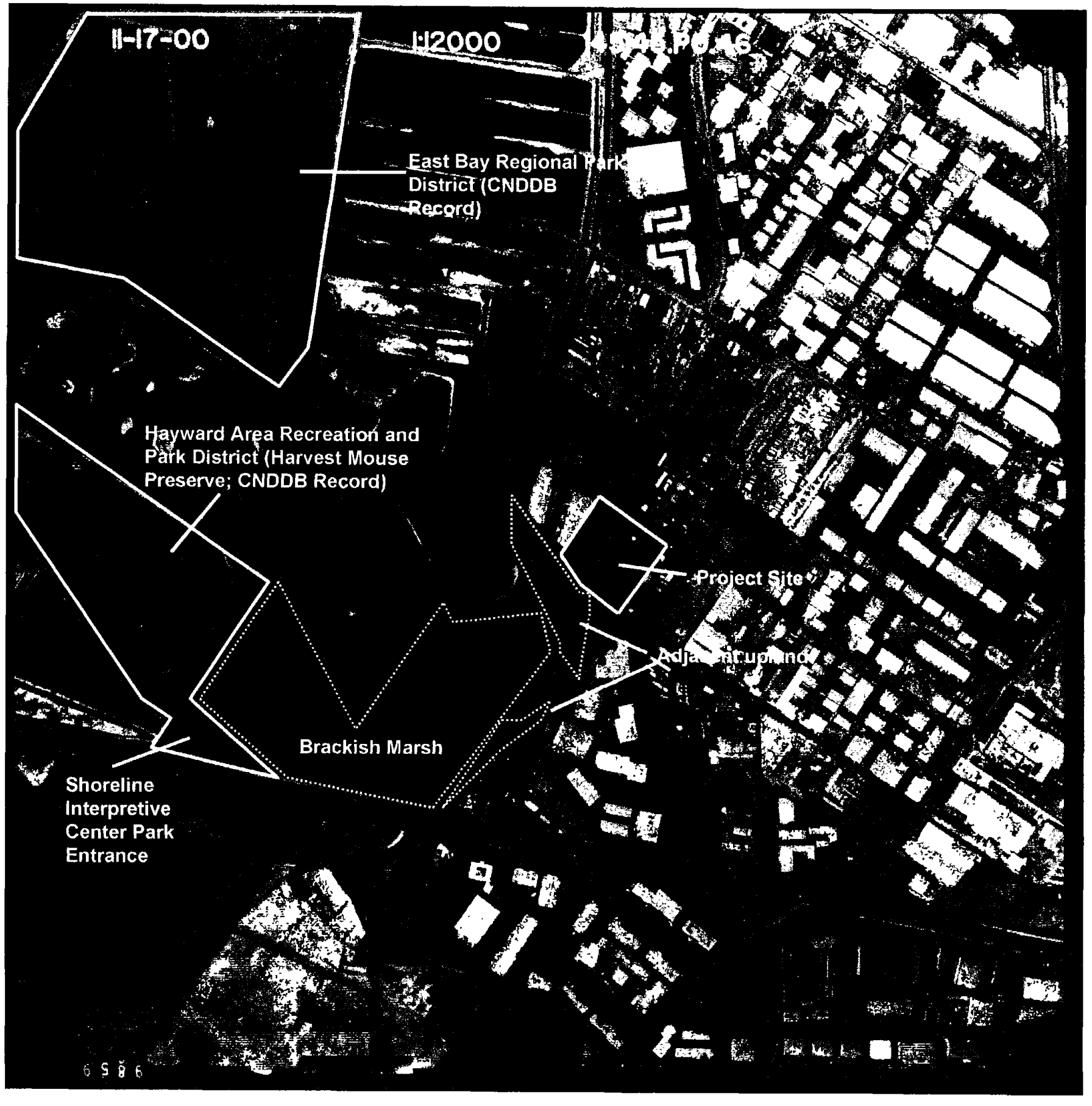
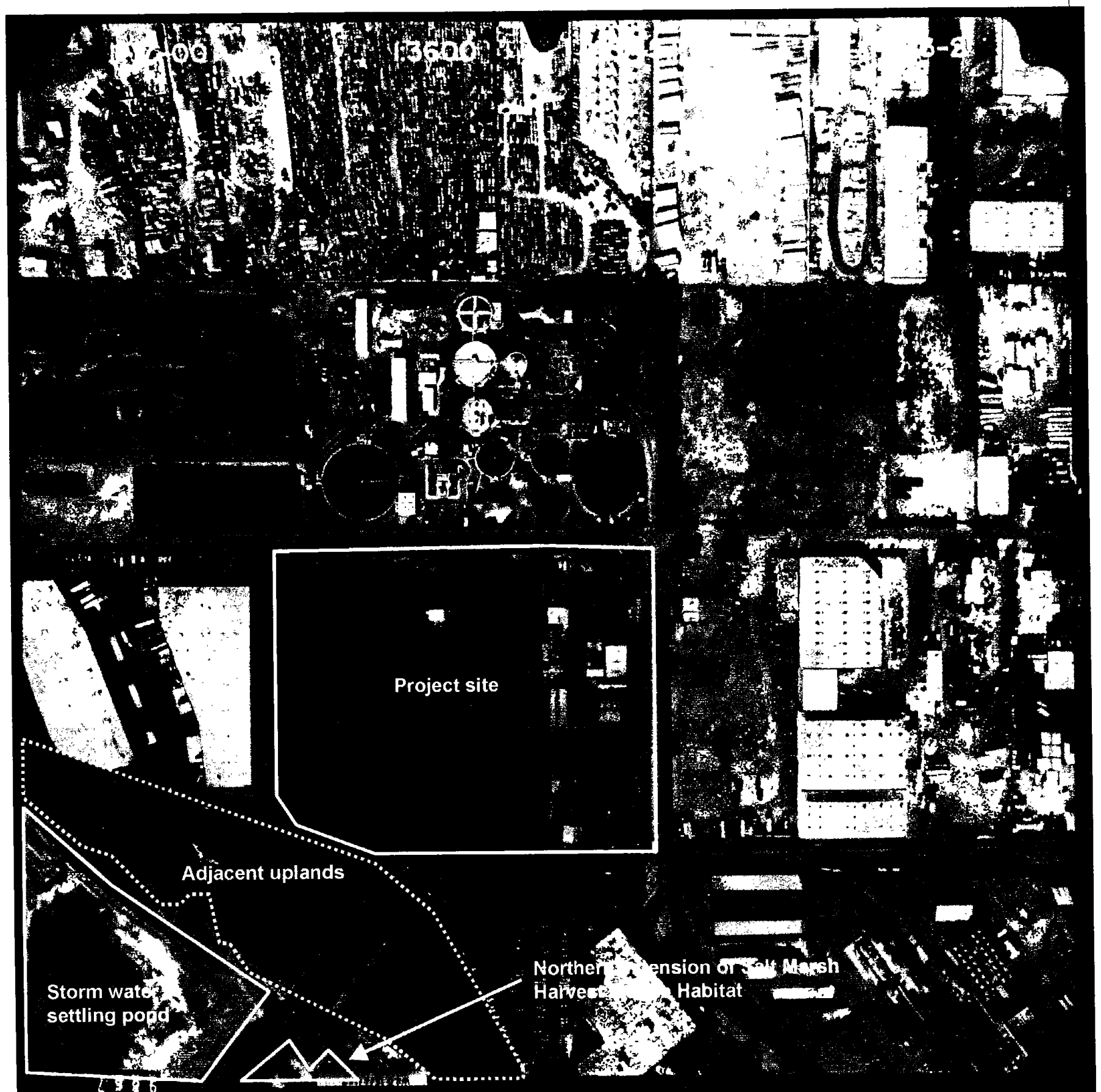


Figure 3: Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Habitat Adjacent to the Project Site



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I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Brett D. Hartman

Encl: Figures 1, 2 & 3

3947 LENNANE DRIVE, SUITE 200, SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-1973
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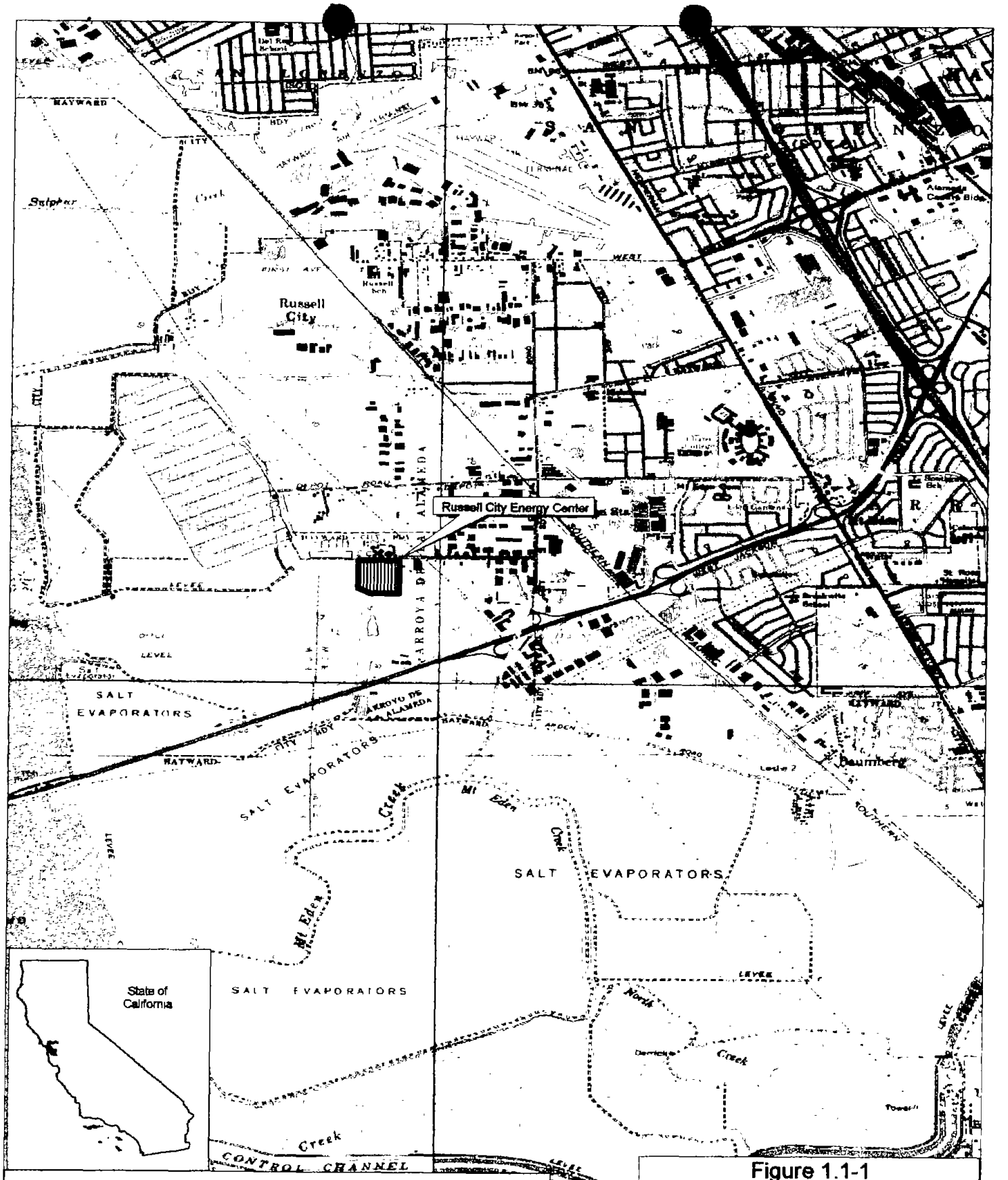

Sources: Geographic Data Technology, Environmental Systems Research Institute, USGS Quad DRGs - GIS Data Depot

N

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

Figure 1.1-1

Project Location
Russell City Energy Center

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