

**Project Design, Review, and Approval, Implementation and Construction, and Mitigation  
Requirements for Natural Communities and Covered Species**

**SH DES 1: Nest Tree Protection**

Trees with active Swainson's hawk nests or with historically active nests (i.e., occupied within the last 10 years) shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Applicants proposing to remove an otherwise healthy nest tree shall provide written justification for the tree removal to SCWA. Sufficient rationale for tree removal shall be primarily based on declining or poor suitability of the tree as a nesting site for Swainson's hawk and/or to meet public safety needs. The justification letter shall provide a clear analysis of the biological value of the tree to Swainson's hawk under pre-project conditions and post-project conditions (if the tree were to be avoided), and will consider the presence of alternate nest sites in the vicinity of the project site. Nest trees shall only be removed if there is a biological basis that the use of the tree is unlikely under post-project conditions. SCWA, in consultation with the HCP Technical Review Committee, will be responsible for approval of the requests to remove healthy nest trees.

