

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

**GGG CON 1: Timing of Work**

In-channel and upland work in the Giant Garter Snake Conservation Area shall occur between May 1 and October 1. Between October 2 and April 30, in-channel work that is limited to removal of accumulated sediments and aquatic vegetation may occur in accordance with the following restrictions: (a) all excavation/dredging shall be confined to the channel bed (below the ordinary high water mark); (b) channel banks shall not be disturbed; and (c) any dredged or excavated material shall be hauled off site or placed in areas lacking rodent burrows, riprap, or other material that might provide dormant period cover for giant garter snakes.

**General Measure Requirements:** If a project is located in an area or contains conditions meeting one or more of the criteria identified in VPG DES 1, then VPG DES 2 and VPG DES 3 must be implemented.

**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.

**SMS DES 1: Preconstruction Surveys**

In Valley Floor Grassland and Vernal Pool, Coastal Marsh, and Riparian, Stream, and Freshwater Marsh Natural Communities, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted between February 1 and August 31 to identify and subsequently avoid nesting areas for applicable Special Management Bird Species. An Approved Biologist shall conduct these surveys no more than 15 days before the anticipated start of construction. Surveys shall be designed and of sufficient intensity to document nesting activity within 100 feet of planned work activities for passerine and within 500 feet of planned work activities for raptors. These surveys may be concurrently conducted with surveys for Covered Species.

