

RCVD
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My name is Ken Burton and I represent the Redwood Region Audubon Society, which is the local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

We support Alternative B for Goal 1 but would like to see it expanded to include the incorporation of an NCCP or HCP to prevent non-listed species from becoming listed.

We support Alternative A for Policy 8 and Standard 12. California's oak woodlands have the third highest bird diversity of any habitat in North America. Given that oak woodlands face threats from development, agricultural conversion, overgrazing, and disease, we need to afford them the highest level of protection possible.

We support Alternative A for Policy 9 on invasive plant species.

We support Alternative A for Standard 1. Excluding agricultural lands from sensitive habitat policies would have adverse effects primarily on grassland birds, which are the bird group of greatest conservation concern in North America.

We support Alternative A for Standard 5. Riparian habitats are critical for numerous bird species at various stages of their life cycles and are considered the most important habitat for conservation of birds in western North America. California has lost at least 85% of its original riparian habitat and the North Coast/Klamath bioregion accounts for 15% of what remains. It is extremely important that we not compromise its biological integrity.

We support Alternative A for Standard 7 because streamside vegetation, both living and dead, is important bird habitat.

We support Alternative A for Standard 8. Birds frequently abandon nesting sites temporarily when they become unsafe or when populations are reduced, then return to them when conditions warrant. Thus, we need to protect historic nest sites as long as they have the potential to be used for nesting.

We support Alternative A for Implementation Measure 3. We feel that identification and protection of biological resources require input by a professional field biologist or, preferably, several specialists. We do not believe that Building and Planning Division staff are qualified, or can be trained in a cost-effective manner, to conduct this work.

Thank you very much for your time.