

OFFICE MEMO

TO: William Wong, P.E. Water Resources Engineer	DATE: April 21, 2015
FROM: Gabrielle Bohrer  Environmental Scientist	SUBJECT: Enviro Assessment for Giant Garter Snake and VELB - Delta Flood Emergency Facilities Improvement Project - Rio Vista

This memorandum is intended to aid in the determination for the Delta Emergency Facilities Improvement Project - Rio Vista Site. Evidence has shown that the site would not likely have an effect on federally listed under the Endangered Species Act giant garter snake (GGS) and Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB).

DWR, Flood Maintenance Staff have assisted with the environmental clearances for the Rio Vista site. There have been numerous site visits which include wetland delineations, nest surveys, and special status species surveys. Staff visited the site in 2014 on 1/30, 2/4, 2/11, 4/30, 5/14, and 5/20 and in 2015 on 3/25.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species Quad list does list GGS and VELB. However, the nearest suitable aquatic migration corridor and habitat for giant garter snake is the southern end of the Yolo Bypass system, located approximately 0.75 miles to the north, and separated from the project site by pastures and a dry land levee. The project boundary lacks the hydraulic connectivity and permanent water sources or water courses suitable for habitat and therefore no project affect to GGS is expected.

No elderberry shrubs were located during any of the field visits to the Rio Vista site. Many of the surveys coincided with the flowering phase of the elderberry shrub, which would aid in the identification of the shrub. As a result, no project affect to VELB is expected.

Additionally, AECOM drafted a memorandum titled, *Federally Listed Species and Critical Habitat within Rio Vista Stockpile Project Site (SPK 2008-00648) and Vicinity*, which determined that Terrestrial species identified by database searches are not likely to occur within the Rio Vista Stockpile Project site because suitable habitat is not present.