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FRICK LAKE PROPERTIES SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION VALUES

Setting

- The properties are located on the east side of Laughlin Road, Livermore, Ca. 94551 in Alameda County, California. The designated Assessor's Parcel numbers are 099B-5450-009 and 099B-5450-008. The site is 0.8 miles north of Interstate 580 (~ 37.72743° N, -121.70892° W, see map below)
- The parcels measure approximately 39.2 acres

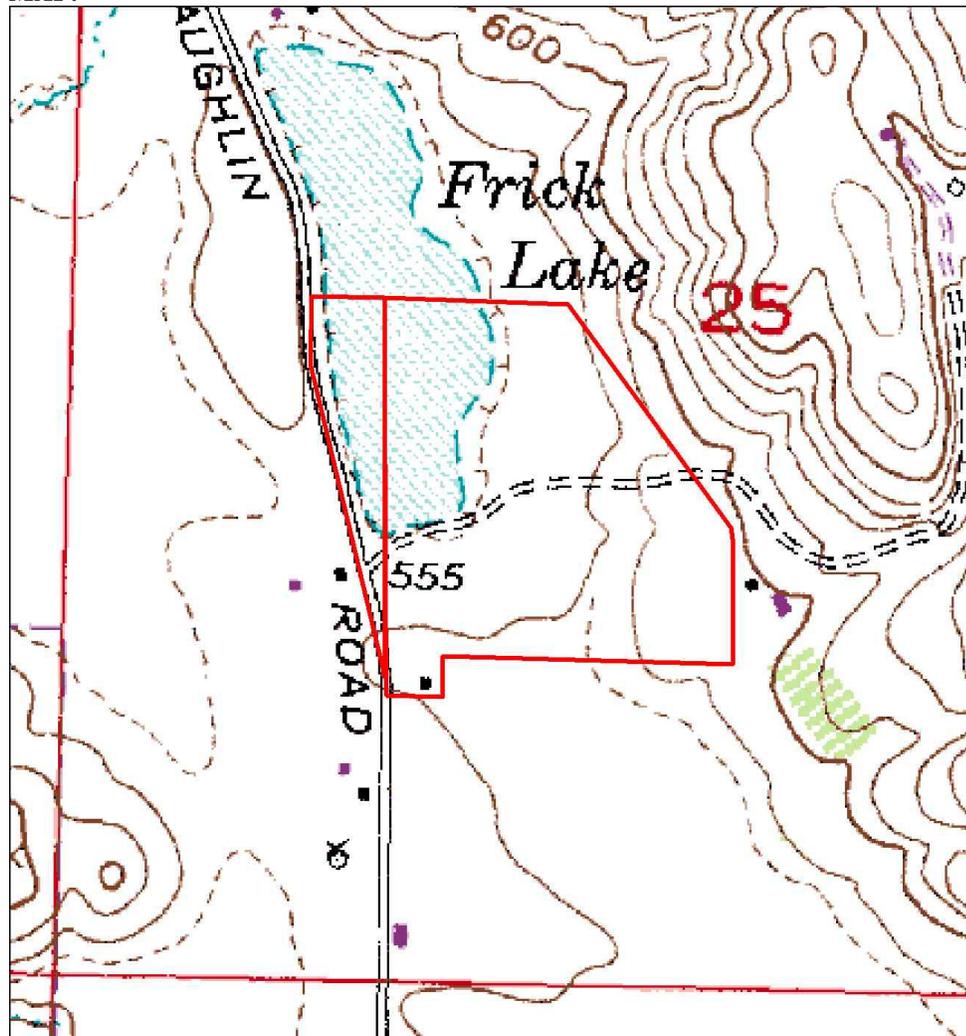
Conservation Values

- **Agricultural:** These are predominantly agricultural properties that possess significant conservation values. Historically, small grains farming occurred on the properties. Current use is cattle grazing.
- **Open space:** The undeveloped, open nature of the parcels allows wildlife access to forage, water and breeding habitats year round, which will affect animal populations, biodiversity and ecosystem function beyond the boundaries of the property.
- **Special Status species:**
 - The properties are within the USFWS Vernal Pool Recovery Area.
 - The properties have numerous vernal pools south of Frick Lake. Alkaline/saline vernal pool associations as they occur on Five Pillars Farm are the least widespread community type and are of high conservation value.
 - San Joaquin spearscale was observed in low to moderate density on the property.
 - The properties currently offer suitable habitat for more than 30 special-status species, including very highly suitable habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp, Tricolored Blackbird, San Joaquin kit fox, and California red-legged frog.
 - California tiger salamander larvae were directly observed during survey efforts.
 - Sign of Burrowing Owl was detected at burrows on site and an individual Burrowing Owl observed within 50 feet of the property.
 - Loggerhead Shrike was directly observed at the properties, and impaled prey was found on the barbed-wire fence along the eastern fence line.
 - Recent sign of American badgers was observed in association with a ground squirrel colony.
- **Wildlife Corridor:** The properties are located within a significant undeveloped corridor linking riparian and wetland habitats along the foothills of the Altamont hills from Interstate 580 to the Brushy Peak tributary. They are an important component to the creation of a protected dispersal corridor for special-status species, which includes the under-crossing at Greenville Road and links areas south of 580 to Brushy Peak Regional Preserve, Los Vaqueros Watershed, and Mount Diablo State Park.
- **Habitat Diversity:** The properties have a diversity of wildlife habitats, ranging from seasonal wetlands to upland annual grasslands. Annual grasslands are the predominant habitat type on all slopes and aspects except the floodplain and associated habitats surrounding Frick Lake.
 - **Seasonal Wetlands:** Frick Lake is a seasonally inundated alkali lake. This habitat type is uncommon in the region and provides habitat for species that would not otherwise occur in the area. Frick Lake and its associated wetland habitats provide important resources for wildlife and several special-status species.
 - **Annual grasslands** provide suitable habitat for a variety of special-status wildlife. Grasslands of the property are inhabited by ground squirrels which provide suitable habitat for Western Burrowing Owl and California tiger salamander. Raptors, such as

golden eagles, white-tailed kites and peregrine falcons, forage in open grassland habitat. The San Joaquin kit fox has been observed in the Altamont hills and grasslands east of Laughlin Road on and near the adjacent Farber property.

- Small stands of **valley sink scrub**, dominated by iodine bush and alkali grasslands occur on the property in a complex array. Alkali grasslands are considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Game because of their rarity and threats to the remnant communities. Special-status plant species such as San Joaquin spearscale, palmate-bracted bird's-beak, and Livermore Valley tarweed are also associated with this habitat.
- **Critical habitat:** The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the properties as critical habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp and for vernal pool habitat.

MAP:



References:

- Kohlmann, S., J. Alvarez, C. Clark and R. Nuzum. 2008. A Baseline Assessment of Environmental and Biological Conditions at Five Pillars Farms, Alameda County, California. Unpubl. Report. Tierra Resource Management, San Ramon, CA 94583.
- Kohlmann, S., J. Alvarez, C. Clark and R. Nuzum. 2008. Conservation Values and Biological baseline study of the Dhaoui property, Livermore, California. Unpubl. Report. Tierra Resource Management, San Ramon, CA.