



# San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan

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LOOKS LIKE...



LIVES IN...



SPECIES SUMMARY

## American badger

*Taxidea taxus*

The American badger ranges throughout the state except the northwestern forests. Their numbers have declined drastically in California within the last century. In the late 1930s they were still numerous in the Central Valley, but now survive only in low numbers in peripheral parts of the valley and adjacent lowlands to the west in eastern Monterey, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo counties (Williams 1986). There are seven confirmed records for the badger in the project database; all are used to identify occupied habitat. Badgers occupy a variety of habitats, including grasslands, savannas, and mountain meadows where soils are suitable for digging for their preferred prey, large rodents such as ground squirrels, gophers, kangaroo rats and marmots. Although agriculture and urbanization are generally incompatible with badgers, they persist in San Joaquin County in the less populated peripheral areas on the western and eastern fringes of the County.

## Ringtail

*Bassariscus astutus*

The ringtail is a slender member of the family that includes raccoons. It inhabits brushy and wooded areas at lower and middle elevations, preferring to live along watercourses (Jameson and Peeters 1988). Its overall range includes the North and South Coast Ranges, Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and the mountainous areas of the Mojave Desert. There is a single record in the project database of an occurrence on the Clements quad. It is used to identify occupied habitat.

INCIDENTAL TAKE MINIMIZATION MEASURES

### 5.2.4.26

## American Badger, Ringtail Cat

If occupied dens are located on a project site for either of these species, then dens shall be monitored to determine if occupation is by an adult badger or ringtail only or is a natal den. If the den is occupied by an adult only the den may be destroyed when the adult has moved or is temporarily absent. If the den is a natal den, a buffer zone of 200 feet shall be maintained around the den until the JPA biologist determines that den has been vacated.