



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

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## Western pond turtle *Clemmys marmorata*

The western pond turtle occurs from the Pacific Northwest through the Central Valley, southern Coast Ranges, and northern Baja California. The Central Valley is an area of intergradation of two subspecies, the northwestern (*C. m. marmorata*) and southwestern pond turtle (*C. m. pallida*), that are recognized by some workers. Pond turtles inhabit ponds, marshes, streams, and ditches that typically have a rocky or muddy substrate and support emergent vegetation (Stebbins 1985). The lack of natural, permanent water in the San Joaquin Valley has nearly eliminated this species from the Valley floor. There are 171 records for the western pond turtle in the project database, of which 143 define occupied habitat. Although most of these records were reported from the Delta region, the species also occurs in the southwestern and northeastern parts of the County.

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YVA Department of Fish and Wildlife

### 5.2.4.10 Pond Turtles

When nesting areas for pond turtles are identified on a project site, a buffer area of 300 feet shall be established between the nesting site (which may be immediately adjacent to wetlands or extend up to 400 feet away from wetland areas in uplands) and the wetland located near the nesting site. These buffers shall be indicated by temporary fencing if construction has or will begin before nesting periods are ended (the period from egg laying to emergence of hatchlings is normally April to November).