

APPENDIX E
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (REPLACEMENT PAGES 5-6)

I INTRODUCTION

Ardea Consulting was tasked by Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc. (ITSI), to conduct a Biological Assessment (BA) for the area on and immediately adjacent to Installation Restoration (IR) Site 25 at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field, Moffett Field, California. The BA is related to a remedial action (RA) project (i.e., proposed project) planned by the Navy for IR Site 25. The BA study area includes areas at the northwest portion of Moffett Field, specifically the storm water retention ponds that include an area owned by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and a smaller area called the Eastern Diked Marsh.

The Navy is conducting the RA as part of its response actions for the site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly referred to as "Superfund." Because the RA for IR Site 25 is a CERCLA action, the Navy is not required to obtain official permits to conduct work at the site, but is obligated to comply with substantive requirements of whatever permits would normally apply. This BA is intended to comply with the substantive requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is also intended that this BA will provide the information necessary to initiate formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

The project site is located within the U.S. Geological Service's Mountain View 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle with the approximate center of the site located at 37° 25' 46.79" north, 122° 03' 40.86" west. The project site is located within the San Francisco Bay Estuaries (#180500041001) and Calabazas Creek-Frontal San Francisco Bay Estuaries watersheds (#180500030405) (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2009).

A site visit was conducted on November 5, 2010 by Joseph P. Sullivan, Ph.D. of Ardea Consulting; Michael Bumgardner of Bumgardner Biological Consulting; and Sarah Gordon of Gordon Ecological Consulting. Dr. Sullivan is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, as recognized by The Wildlife Society. This BA will analyze the impacts of the proposed action on federally listed species or their habitat within or adjacent to the project site. This BA is based on a literature review, database queries, and limited site reconnaissance. No protocol-level surveys adhering to agency guidelines were conducted as part of this assessment. A protocol-level survey for California clapper rail is scheduled for Spring 2011. A protocol rare plant survey will be conducted during the Spring and Summer 2011. The results will be submitted following the completion of the survey.

This BA discusses impacts to those site-specific plant or animal species that are listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA. Thus, this BA provides the best available scientific and commercial data for the following species that may be found at IR Site 25, California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*), California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), salt-marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*), and California seablite (*Suaeda californica*), in the action area.

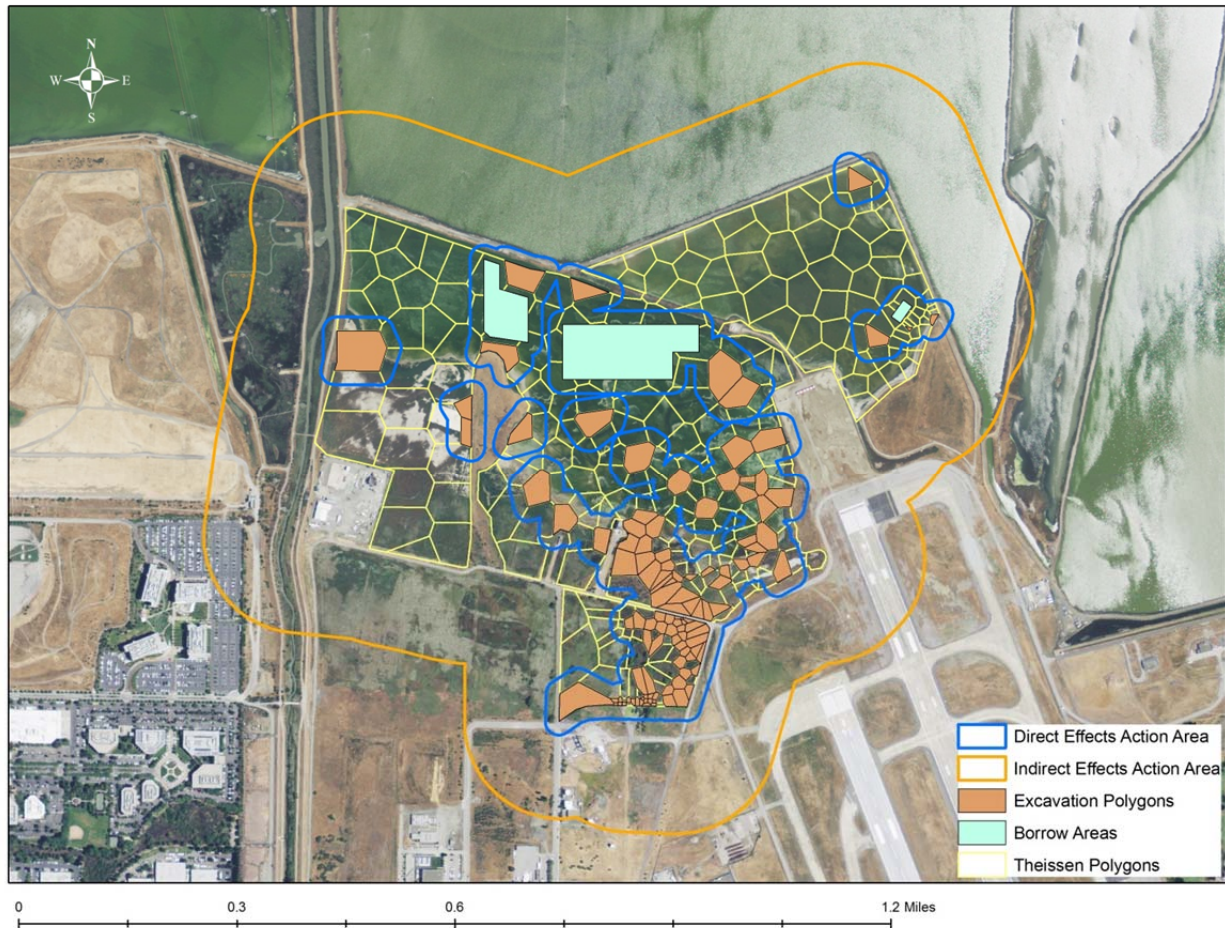


Figure 1. Project Action Area with locations of excavation polygons and borrow areas.

II.a PROPOSED ACTION

II.a.1 Project Description

The RA will implement the remedy for IR Site 25 promulgated in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the site (Navy, 2009). The remedy as presented in the ROD will be protective of the environment from actual or threatened releases of chemicals of concern (COCs) at the site. No CERCLA action is needed at IR Site 25 to protect human health. The remedy includes excavation, treatment, and off-site disposal of sediments contaminated with COCs, i.e., lead, zinc, total dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), and total polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and restoration of wetland excavations. Details of the RA to be performed at IR Site 25, including excavation locations, staging areas, haul and approach roads, and construction schedule, are presented in the main text portion of this Remedial Design/Remedial Action Work Plan.

II.a.2 Action Area

The action area includes all the areas in which federally-listed species could be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed action. Areas that would be directly affected by the proposed action include all lands on which ground disturbance, vegetation clearing, or surface