



17 April 2018

Zach Parker  
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**Subject:        Reconnaissance surveys for nesting special-status raptors near the Sanger  
                     Substation Expansion Project Site in Fresno County, California**

Dear Zach:

On 14 and 15 April 2018, I conducted reconnaissance surveys for the state-listed as threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and the state-designated as fully protected white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) in support of the Sanger Substation Expansion Project. The surveys were conducted in accordance with Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-7 of the project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. During each survey, all accessible nesting habitat and substrates within 0.5 miles of the Project Site (the survey area) were searched from public roads and access points. The surveys were conducted between sunrise and 12 p.m. and otherwise followed the methods described in the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (TAC 2000)<sup>1</sup>. Although the focus of the surveys was special-status raptors, the nesting activities of all raptors within the survey area were observed and documented.

I observed no Swainson's hawks or white-tailed kites in the survey area. The only raptor species detected were red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). An occupied red-tailed hawk nest was in an electric transmission tower about 780 feet east of the substation at 36.707958, -119.607617. This nest was occupied by an adult in incubation posture (bird sitting low in nest). This nest was also occupied in 2017 (Colibri 2017)<sup>2</sup>. No other raptor nests were found in the survey area.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). 2000. Recommended timing and methodology for Swainson's hawk nesting surveys in California's Central Valley. Report provided to the California Department of Fish and Game. 5 pp.

<sup>2</sup> Colibri Ecological Consulting. 2017. Special-status raptor survey report: Sanger Substation Expansion Project. Report prepared for PG&E. 10 pp.