Aquatic Resource Delineation Memo

Prepared for:

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Sarita Prasad is working with the City of Sacramento to rehabilitate a Fuel Stop Gas Station for an approximately 0.5-acre property located at 3200 Rio Linda Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95815, APN 251-0292-016 (Attachment A). As part of the California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study, the City of Sacramento has tasked Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc. to provide an Aquatic Resource Delineation Memo to identify potential jurisdictional water features that the project may impact. Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc. collected preliminary data before the initial site visit, including a review of hydric soil maps, aerial imagery, and historical climatic conditions. On February 2, 2023, Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc. biologist Danielle Aparicio conducted a field visit to determine if any wetland habitat was present within or near the project site. The Aquatic Resource Delineation survey was conducted per the United States Army Corps of Engineers *1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*, the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0)*.

Arcade Creek is located approximately 150 feet from the project site. According to the National Wetlands Inventory (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2023), Arcade Creek has a Cowardin classification code of PEM1Cx and is mapped as a freshwater emergent wetland habitat. Arcade Creek connects to Steelhead Creek and are tributaries to the Sacramento River, a part of the Lower American Watershed. No wetlands were observed above the ordinary high-water mark of the channelized Arcade Creek, and the habitat above the high-water mark is classified as disturbed and annual grassland. All habitat within the project site is developed pavement or gravel.

Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation, also known as wetland plants, is present when the plant community is dominated by species that can tolerate prolonged inundation or substrate saturation during the growing period. Wetland plants are identified using the National Wetland Plant List (Lichvar, 2016) and applying the wetland indicator status from the list. Once each plant species is identified with its corresponding indicator status, the dominance test is applied. Hydrophytic vegetation is present if the calculation from the dominance test (indicator 1) is over 50 percent. However, suppose the dominance test fails and in the case of positive indicators for both wetland hydrology and hydric soils are present. In that case, the prevalence index (indicator 2) is applied, which takes more than just the dominant species but all plant species across all vegetation strata into consideration. In addition, plant morphological adaptations (indicator 3) can be used when both wetland hydrology and hydric soils are present.

Only one grass species, *Poa annua*, with the potential to occur in wetlands, was observed on the project site. However, the absolute percent cover relative to the entire project site was less than 3 percent for that species and not considered a dominant species. No other wetland plant species were observed within the project site. All species observed within the project site are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – List of All Plants Identified During the Field Survey within the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Arid West NWPL Indicator Status
Avena barbata	Slender wild oat	UPL
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow star-thistle	UPL
Cichorium intybus	Common chicory	FACU
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	FACU
Erodium moschatum	Musky stork's bill	UPL
Poa annua	Annual bluegrass	FAC

Indicator Status Description:
OBL—Obligate wetland plants, occurrence in wetlands >99%
FACW—Facultative wetland plants, occurrence in wetlands 67-99%
FAC—Facultative plants, occurrence in wetlands 34-66%
FACU—Facultative upland plants, occurrence in wetlands 1-33%
UPL—Obligate upland plants, occurrence in wetlands <1%

Wetland Hydrology

Wetland hydrology refers to the presence of water at or above the soil surface for a sufficient period of the year to significantly influence the plant types and soils that occur in the area. When surveys are conducted at a time of year when surface water, water table, or saturated soils cannot be observed, evidence of wetland hydrology is based on observation of the hydrologic indicators described in the wetland delineation manual. Evidence of wetland hydrology can include primary indicators such as surface soil cracks, nonriverine watermarks, and nonriverine drift deposits or secondary indicators such as drainage patterns or crayfish burrows. The occurrence of at least one primary indicator or two secondary indicators is required to confirm the presence of wetland hydrology.

No signs of hydrology were observed within the project site boundaries.

Hydric Soils

Hydric soil is soil formed under saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions supporting hydrophytic vegetation's growth and regeneration. If the soil in an area is listed as hydric by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the area may have a wetland. Therefore, sample soil pits are dug in areas of interest with positive indicators of wetland hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation. Once a soil pit is dug, the Munsell Soil Color Book (2009) and Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States v 8.2 are used to confirm the profile description of the hydric soil by depth.

The soil within the project site is labeled as a San Joaquin-Urban land complex with 0-3 percent slopes and does not have a hydric soil rating. The depth of the water table is more than 80 inches (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2023, **Attachment C**). No soil pits were required for this survey due to the mapped soil having a negative hydric soil rating and negative indicators for wetland hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation.

In conclusion, no signs for any of the three parameters were observed within the project boundary, determining there are no wetlands that the project will impact.

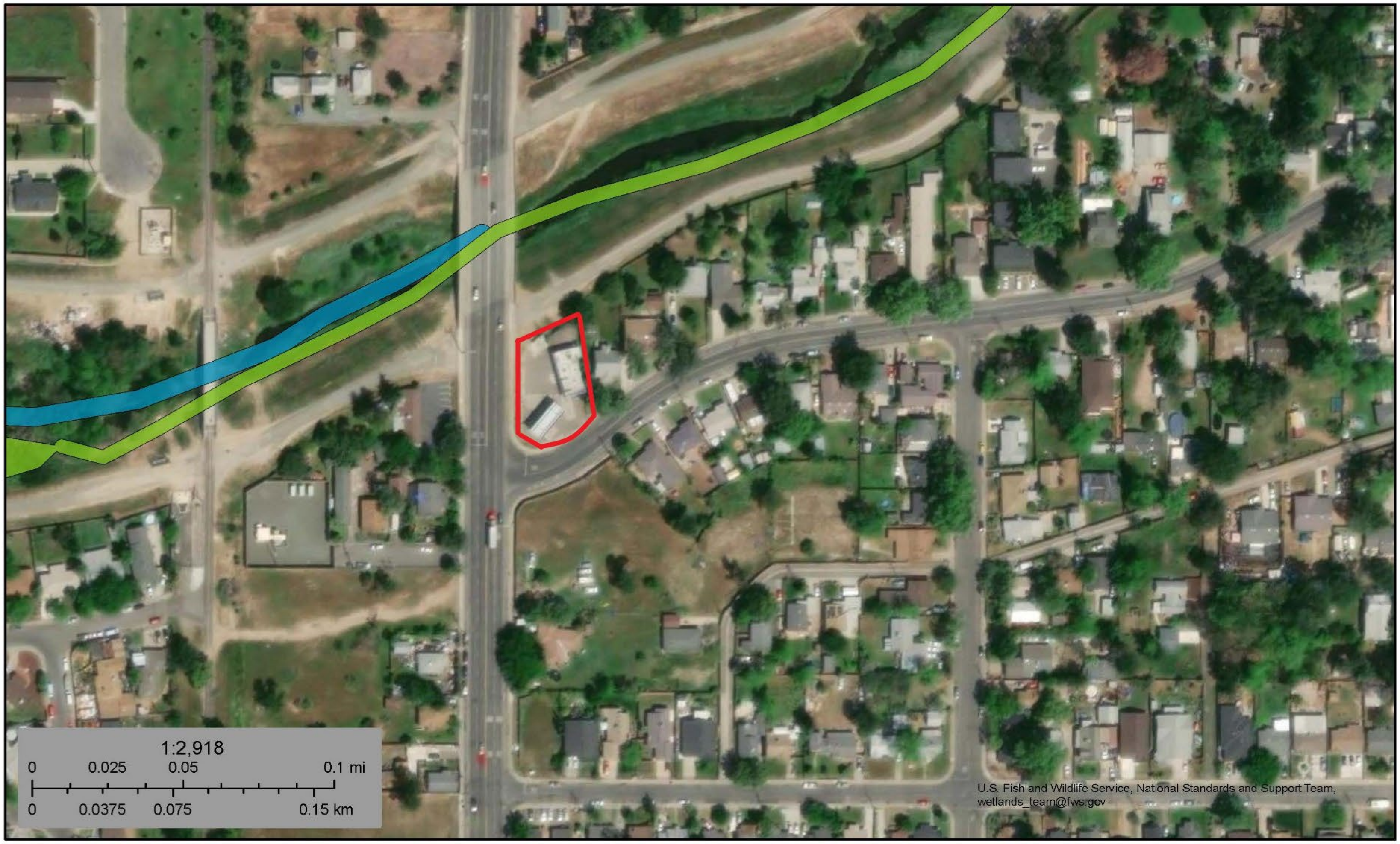
Attachment A:

Supporting Maps

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

3200 Rio Linda Blvd, Sacramento, CA



February 1, 2023

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

Attachment B:

Site Photographs

Photo 1: Project site from the southern end facing north

Photo 2: Project site facing adjacent private property

Photo 3: Project site from the northern end facing SE

Photo 4: Project site from NE corner facing south

Photo 5: Project site from the northern end facing NE, Arcade Creek access road adjacent to the site

Photo 6: Disturbed and annual grassland above ordinary high water mark and access road

Photo 7: View of Arcade Creek with annual grassland and disturbed habitat above

Photo 8: View of Arcade Creek from the most northern point, project site in the far background

Attachment C:

Soil Report

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service

A product of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local participants

Custom Soil Resource Report for

Sacramento County, California

February 1, 2023

Preface

Soil surveys contain information that affects land use planning in survey areas. They highlight soil limitations that affect various land uses and provide information about the properties of the soils in the survey areas. Soil surveys are designed for many different users, including farmers, ranchers, foresters, agronomists, urban planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers. Also, conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the surveys to help them understand, protect, or enhance the environment.

Various land use regulations of Federal, State, and local governments may impose special restrictions on land use or land treatment. Soil surveys identify soil properties that are used in making various land use or land treatment decisions. The information is intended to help the land users identify and reduce the effects of soil limitations on various land uses. The landowner or user is responsible for identifying and complying with existing laws and regulations.

Although soil survey information can be used for general farm, local, and wider area planning, onsite investigation is needed to supplement this information in some cases. Examples include soil quality assessments (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/health/) and certain conservation and engineering applications. For more detailed information, contact your local USDA Service Center (https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs) or your NRCS State Soil Scientist (http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/contactus/?cid=nrcs142p2_053951).

Great differences in soil properties can occur within short distances. Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as a foundation for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes a soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations.

The National Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture and other Federal agencies, State agencies including the Agricultural Experiment Stations, and local agencies. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has leadership for the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

Information about soils is updated periodically. Updated information is available through the NRCS Web Soil Survey, the site for official soil survey information.

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Contents

How Soil Surveys Are Made

Soil surveys are made to provide information about the soils and miscellaneous areas in a specific area. They include a description of the soils and miscellaneous areas and their location on the landscape and tables that show soil properties and limitations affecting various uses. Soil scientists observed the steepness, length, and shape of the slopes; the general pattern of drainage; the kinds of crops and native plants; and the kinds of bedrock. They observed and described many soil profiles. A soil profile is the sequence of natural layers, or horizons, in a soil. The profile extends from the surface down into the unconsolidated material in which the soil formed or from the surface down to bedrock. The unconsolidated material is devoid of roots and other living organisms and has not been changed by other biological activity.

Currently, soils are mapped according to the boundaries of major land resource areas (MLRAs). MLRAs are geographically associated land resource units that share common characteristics related to physiography, geology, climate, water resources, soils, biological resources, and land uses (USDA, 2006). Soil survey areas typically consist of parts of one or more MLRA.

The soils and miscellaneous areas in a survey area occur in an orderly pattern that is related to the geology, landforms, relief, climate, and natural vegetation of the area. Each kind of soil and miscellaneous area is associated with a particular kind of landform or with a segment of the landform. By observing the soils and miscellaneous areas in the survey area and relating their position to specific segments of the landform, a soil scientist develops a concept, or model, of how they were formed. Thus, during mapping, this model enables the soil scientist to predict with a considerable degree of accuracy the kind of soil or miscellaneous area at a specific location on the landscape.

Commonly, individual soils on the landscape merge into one another as their characteristics gradually change. To construct an accurate soil map, however, soil scientists must determine the boundaries between the soils. They can observe only a limited number of soil profiles. Nevertheless, these observations, supplemented by an understanding of the soil-vegetation-landscape relationship, are sufficient to verify predictions of the kinds of soil in an area and to determine the boundaries.

Soil scientists recorded the characteristics of the soil profiles that they studied. They noted soil color, texture, size and shape of soil aggregates, kind and amount of rock fragments, distribution of plant roots, reaction, and other features that enable them to identify soils. After describing the soils in the survey area and determining their properties, the soil scientists assigned the soils to taxonomic classes (units). Taxonomic classes are concepts. Each taxonomic class has a set of soil characteristics with precisely defined limits. The classes are used as a basis for comparison to classify soils systematically. Soil taxonomy, the system of taxonomic classification used in the United States, is based mainly on the kind and character of soil properties and the arrangement of horizons within the profile. After the soil scientists classified and named the soils in the survey area, they compared the individual soils with similar soils in the same taxonomic class in other areas so that they could confirm data and assemble additional data based on experience and research.

The objective of soil mapping is not to delineate pure map unit components; the objective is to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. Each map unit is defined by a unique combination of soil components and/or miscellaneous areas in predictable proportions. Some components may be highly contrasting to the other components of the map unit. The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The delineation of such landforms and landform segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

Soil scientists make many field observations in the process of producing a soil map. The frequency of observation is dependent upon several factors, including scale of mapping, intensity of mapping, design of map units, complexity of the landscape, and experience of the soil scientist. Observations are made to test and refine the soil-landscape model and predictions and to verify the classification of the soils at specific locations. Once the soil-landscape model is refined, a significantly smaller number of measurements of individual soil properties are made and recorded. These measurements may include field measurements, such as those for color, depth to bedrock, and texture, and laboratory measurements, such as those for content of sand, silt, clay, salt, and other components. Properties of each soil typically vary from one point to another across the landscape.

Observations for map unit components are aggregated to develop ranges of characteristics for the components. The aggregated values are presented. Direct measurements do not exist for every property presented for every map unit component. Values for some properties are estimated from combinations of other properties.

While a soil survey is in progress, samples of some of the soils in the area generally are collected for laboratory analyses and for engineering tests. Soil scientists interpret the data from these analyses and tests as well as the field-observed characteristics and the soil properties to determine the expected behavior of the soils under different uses. Interpretations for all of the soils are field tested through observation of the soils in different uses and under different levels of management. Some interpretations are modified to fit local conditions, and some new interpretations are developed to meet local needs. Data are assembled from other sources, such as research information, production records, and field experience of specialists. For example, data on crop yields under defined levels of management are assembled from farm records and from field or plot experiments on the same kinds of soil.

Predictions about soil behavior are based not only on soil properties but also on such variables as climate and biological activity. Soil conditions are predictable over long periods of time, but they are not predictable from year to year. For example, soil scientists can predict with a fairly high degree of accuracy that a given soil will have a high water table within certain depths in most years, but they cannot predict that a high water table will always be at a specific level in the soil on a specific date.

After soil scientists located and identified the significant natural bodies of soil in the survey area, they drew the boundaries of these bodies on aerial photographs and identified each as a specific map unit. Aerial photographs show trees, buildings, fields, roads, and rivers, all of which help in locating boundaries accurately.

Soil Map

The soil map section includes the soil map for the defined area of interest, a list of soil map units on the map and extent of each map unit, and cartographic symbols displayed on the map. Also presented are various metadata about data used to produce the map, and a description of each soil map unit.

Soil Map


121° 26' 45" W
121° 26' 44" W
635267
635274
635281
635288
635295
635302
635309
38° 37' 32" N
38° 37' 30" N
4276375
4276368
4276361
4276354
4276347
4276340
4276333
4276326
4276319
220
Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.
Map Scale: 1:296 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.
Meters
0 4 8 16 24
Feet
0 10 20 40 60
N
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 10N WGS84

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

Soil Map Unit Polygons

Soil Map Unit Lines

Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features

Blowout

Borrow Pit

Clay Spot

Closed Depression

Gravel Pit

Gravelly Spot

Landfill

Lava Flow

Marsh or swamp

Mine or Quarry

Miscellaneous Water

Perennial Water

Rock Outcrop

Saline Spot

Sandy Spot

Severely Eroded Spot

Sinkhole

Slide or Slip

Sodic Spot

Spoil Area

Stony Spot

Very Stony Spot

Wet Spot

Other

Special Line Features

Water Features

Streams and Canals

Transportation

Rails

Interstate Highways

US Routes

Major Roads

Local Roads

Background

Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Sacramento County, California
Survey Area Data: Version 22, Sep 1, 2022

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Apr 23, 2022—Apr 24, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
220	San Joaquin-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes	0.3	100.0%
Totals for Area of Interest		**0.3**	**100.0%**

Map Unit Descriptions

The map units delineated on the detailed soil maps in a soil survey represent the soils or miscellaneous areas in the survey area. The map unit descriptions, along with the maps, can be used to determine the composition and properties of a unit.

A map unit delineation on a soil map represents an area dominated by one or more major kinds of soil or miscellaneous areas. A map unit is identified and named according to the taxonomic classification of the dominant soils. Within a taxonomic class there are precisely defined limits for the properties of the soils. On the landscape, however, the soils are natural phenomena, and they have the characteristic variability of all natural phenomena. Thus, the range of some observed properties may extend beyond the limits defined for a taxonomic class. Areas of soils of a single taxonomic class rarely, if ever, can be mapped without including areas of other taxonomic classes. Consequently, every map unit is made up of the soils or miscellaneous areas for which it is named and some minor components that belong to taxonomic classes other than those of the major soils.

Most minor soils have properties similar to those of the dominant soil or soils in the map unit, and thus they do not affect use and management. These are called noncontrasting, or similar, components. They may or may not be mentioned in a particular map unit description. Other minor components, however, have properties and behavioral characteristics divergent enough to affect use or to require different management. These are called contrasting, or dissimilar, components. They generally are in small areas and could not be mapped separately because of the scale used. Some small areas of strongly contrasting soils or miscellaneous areas are identified by a special symbol on the maps. If included in the database for a given area, the contrasting minor components are identified in the map unit descriptions along with some characteristics of each. A few areas of minor components may not have been observed, and consequently they are not mentioned in the descriptions, especially where the pattern was so complex that it was impractical to make enough observations to identify all the soils and miscellaneous areas on the landscape.

The presence of minor components in a map unit in no way diminishes the usefulness or accuracy of the data. The objective of mapping is not to delineate pure taxonomic classes but rather to separate the landscape into landforms or landform segments that have similar use and management requirements. The delineation of such segments on the map provides sufficient information for the development of resource plans. If intensive use of small areas is planned, however, onsite investigation is needed to define and locate the soils and miscellaneous areas.

An identifying symbol precedes the map unit name in the map unit descriptions. Each description includes general facts about the unit and gives important soil properties and qualities.

Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a *soil series*. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into *soil phases*. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series.

Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A *complex* consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An *association* is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An *undifferentiated group* is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

Some surveys include *miscellaneous areas*. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example.

Sacramento County, California

220—San Joaquin-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes

Map Unit Setting

National map unit symbol: hhq2
Elevation: 20 to 500 feet
Mean annual precipitation: 10 to 22 inches
Mean annual air temperature: 61 to 63 degrees F
Frost-free period: 250 to 300 days
Farmland classification: Not prime farmland

Map Unit Composition

San joaquin and similar soils: 65 percent
Urban land: 25 percent
Minor components: 10 percent
Estimates are based on observations, descriptions, and transects of the mapunit.

Description of San Joaquin

Setting

Landform: Terraces
Landform position (two-dimensional): Toeslope
Landform position (three-dimensional): Tread
Down-slope shape: Linear
Across-slope shape: Linear
Parent material: Alluvium derived from granite

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 13 inches: fine sandy loam
H2 - 13 to 30 inches: sandy clay loam
H3 - 30 to 35 inches: clay loam
H4 - 35 to 60 inches: indurated
H5 - 60 to 67 inches: stratified sandy loam to loam

Properties and qualities

Slope: 0 to 3 percent
Depth to restrictive feature: More than 80 inches; 35 to 60 inches to duripan
Drainage class: Moderately well drained
Runoff class: High
Capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water (Ksat): Very low (0.00 to 0.00 in/hr)
Depth to water table: More than 80 inches
Frequency of flooding: None
Frequency of ponding: None
Available water supply, 0 to 60 inches: Low (about 4.4 inches)

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 3s
Hydrologic Soil Group: C
Ecological site: R017XY902CA - Duripan Vernal Pools
Hydric soil rating: No

Description of Urban Land

Typical profile

H1 - 0 to 6 inches: variable

Interpretive groups

Land capability classification (irrigated): None specified
Land capability classification (nonirrigated): 8
Hydric soil rating: No

Minor Components

Dierssen

Percent of map unit: 4 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Bruella

Percent of map unit: 3 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Xerarents

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Durixeralfs

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

Unnamed, clayey subsoil

Percent of map unit: 1 percent
Hydric soil rating: No

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