



Urban Kit Fox Population

Urban Kit Foxes

The San Joaquin Kit fox is a federally endangered and California threatened species that can be found throughout Bakersfield and has been found to use most areas within the urban environment.



Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) prohibits the “take” of any federally listed endangered species by any person (an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, etc.) subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. As defined in the Act, take means “...to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.” Thus, not only is a listed animal protected from activities such as hunting, but also from actions that damage or destroy its habitat.



Any lawful development activity in the Metropolitan Bakersfield area in compliance with Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan is permitted for an incidental “take” of the San Joaquin Kit fox.

In Bakersfield, the population of San Joaquin kit foxes has shown to be highly adaptable to the urban conditions. Kit foxes are able to use crawl spaces under commercial facilities and school portable units for denning, landscaped areas of parking lots, and open space associated with maintenance yards, low-density industrial and commercial areas, stormwater drainage basins, and railroad corridors. Although kit foxes are found less frequently in high-density residential areas, they may use edges of these developments for foraging and movement. Kit foxes in Bakersfield have also been found to den adjacent to major roads, using features of the road for den construction (e.g., culverts, road embankments, underpasses). Source: Thomas Roads Improvement Program: San Joaquin Kit Fox Effects Analysis, Mitigation Strategy, and Implementation Plan, March 2010.