Animal Habitat

Structure Construction (SC) employees should be aware of the potential hazards associated with the presence of various animals on projects. Mammals such as coyotes or bats may have rabies, and snakes could be poisonous. Bat guano, bird manure, and other animal waste can serve as a breeding space for harmful fungi and bacteria and should be removed from the workspace by the Contractor prior to starting work. For additional information, refer to the Caltrans Safety and Health Manual, Chapter 22, Disease Protection.

Existing structures often serve as habitat for bats and birds. In the event that a project involves an existing structure, part of the constructability review process would include noting the presence of animal habitat and including cleanup as part of the environmental clearance.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health provides a pamphlet, Histoplasmosis – Protecting Workers at Risk, describing the dangers associated with animal waste. It also offers guidelines for safely removing the waste, including the use of a respirator.

A new section for Animal Habitat will be added to the new SC Supplement Code of Safe Practices.